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Save the Children
EVERY ONE

Gender gap closes in Nordic countries: Index

SURVEY Women remain far behind men in economic and political power, but the Nordic countries come closest to closing the gender gap, according to a survey of 134 nations released yesterday.

The four Nordic countries — Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden — have topped the Global Gender Gap Index since it was first released in 2006 by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum.

They did so again this year, but Iceland replaced Norway at the top of the list.

Canada ranked 25th, up from 31st in the 2008 list.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News on the Move

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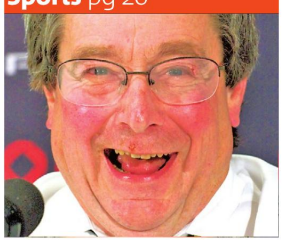
Sports pg 20



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NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Paul Frustaglio breaks down yesterday while talking to the media about the death of his 13-year-old son. Evan Frustaglio died suddenly from the swine flu Monday. **More flu coverage, pages 4, 8, 16.**

Keep close eye on kids: Father

'He fell so quickly,' grieving dad says of son's death

Flu Outbreak

The swine flu death of an otherwise healthy hockey-playing teen came without warning and should serve as a lesson to parents to keep a close eye on their ill children, the boy's grief-stricken father said yesterday.

Paul Frustaglio said it took barely more than a day for the H1N1 flu virus to kill Evan — his "best friend" — who turned 13 last month, a fatality that public health officials called rare.

"He fell so quickly," Frustaglio told The Canadian Press. "I was watching him. I was there when he died."

Evan's death Monday came on the same day health authorities across Canada began rolling out a vaccination program against H1N1. The teen would not have been considered a priority for the flu shot because he wasn't in a high-risk group.

Evan Frustaglio

The Grade 8 student began feeling ill over the weekend during a hockey tournament. His symptoms included fever and some vomiting.

His dad took him to a walk-in clinic Sunday afternoon, where he was seen and sent home with advice to take over-the-counter medication.

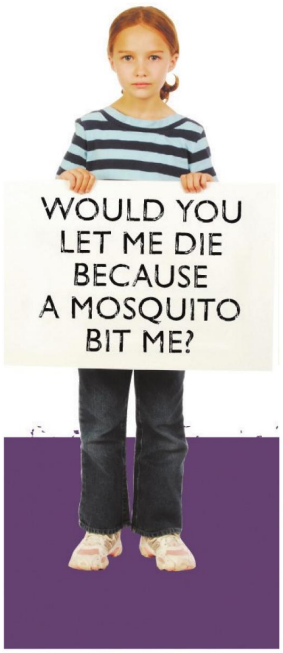
The family felt confident it was a simple case of flu that would soon pass.

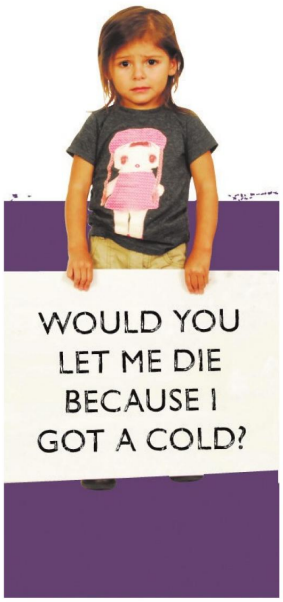
Frustaglio warned parents against complacency or thinking that patients with swine flu will show symptoms for many days before deteriorating gradually.

"This didn't even take a day and a half — it hit my son within 10 minutes," he said.

The swine flu has now killed close to 100 people across Canada. Ontario has had close to 30 deaths, six of them children, since April.

THE CANADIAN PRESS





PHOTOS BY: Medardo Freire Photography

Save the Children Canada

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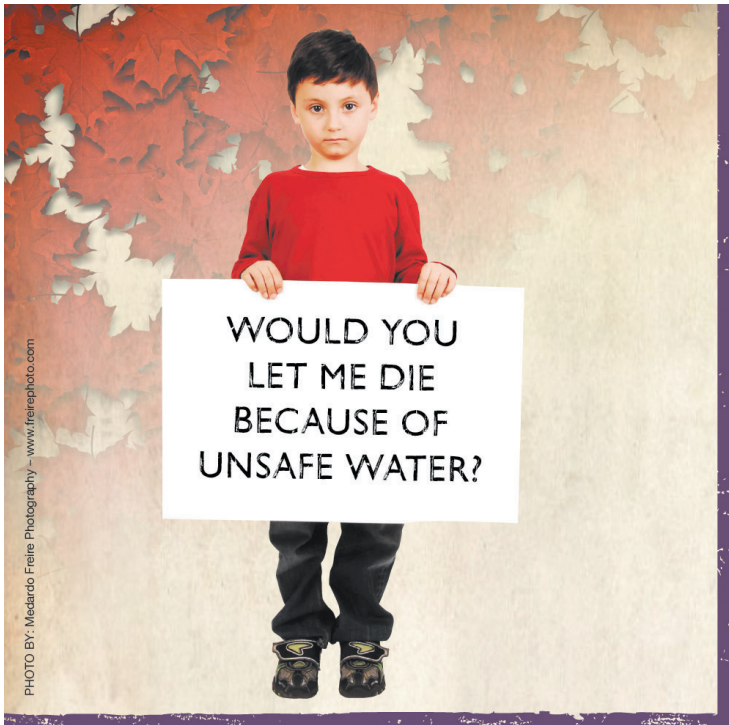

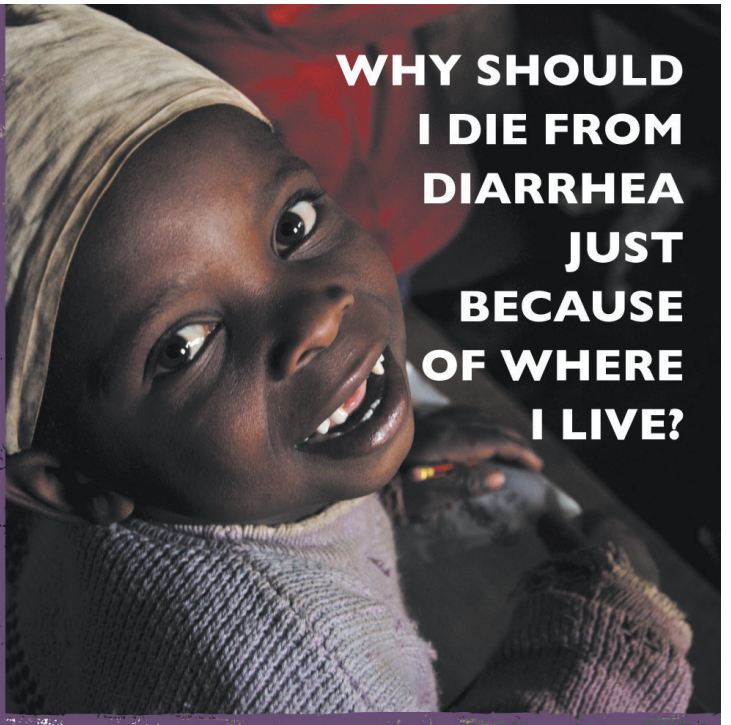

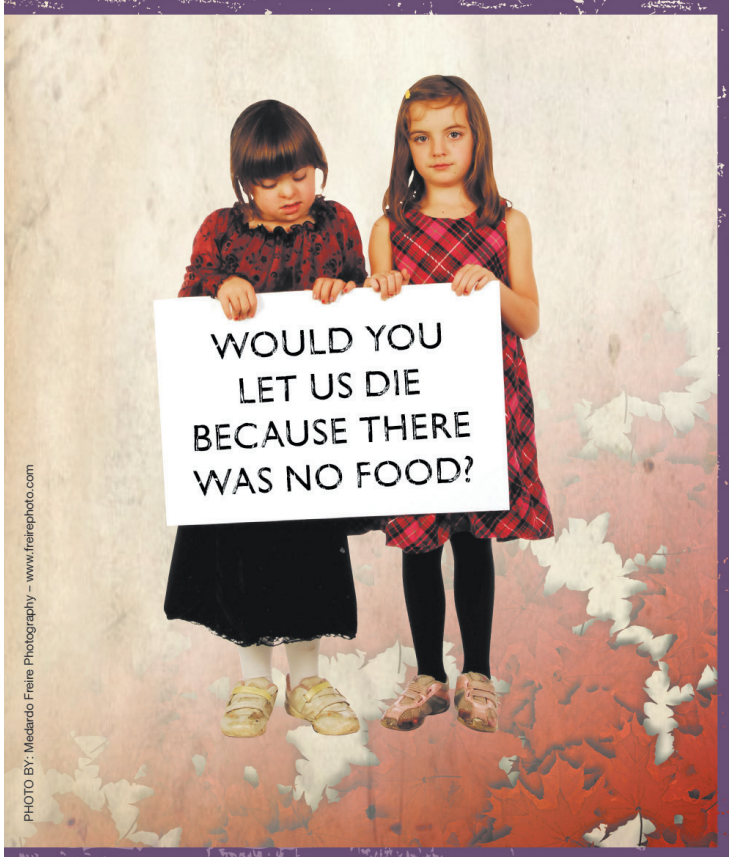

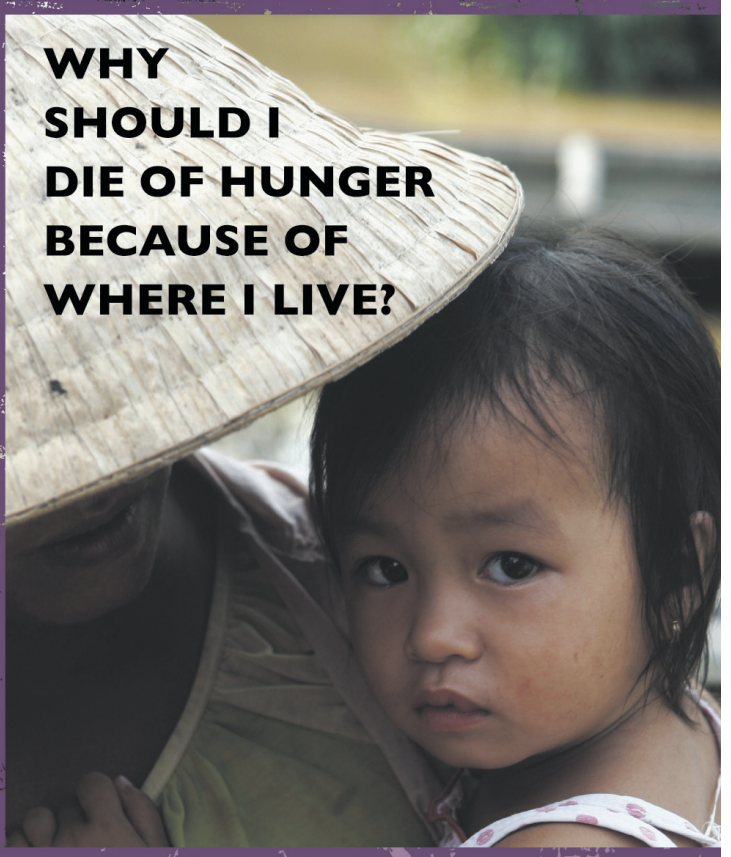

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SCANLIFE

Local

Ontario eyes limits on campaign cash

Ontario wants to set limits to municipal election donations and move the election date forward as part of several hundred recommendations to improve transparency in its ministries. Attorney General Chris Bentley, left, is proposing limits of $5,000 per contributor in each jurisdiction, as well as elections on the fourth Monday of October starting next year. The 600 items also include changes to jury screening and changes to better manage the length and cost of public inquiries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 2009 Festival of Media Awards

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Tomorrow's Metro

Comment

Steve Collins writes about the modern Canadian relationship in his column.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video An Ontario dad warns parents to be vigilant following his son's death from H1N1 at **metronews.ca/canada**

Blogs

SpinDoctor on what's behind the rise of pensions as a political issue

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 8 8 8; **Ontario Pick 4:** 3 2 1 4
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Full-day kindergarten

Program may force cuts in other areas

Ontario will move ahead with a massive and costly program to offer full-day kindergarten for all four- and five-year-olds despite an unprecedented $25-billion deficit this year, Premier Dalton McGuinty said yesterday.

It's "essential" the province invest in the $1.5-billion-a-year program to build a stronger workforce down the road, he said.

Moving forward with all-day kindergarten — billed as a North American first — may require cuts in other spending areas, McGuinty warned.

McGuinty's staff couldn't provide a breakdown of how much will be spent on all-day kindergarten over the next five years, but the government has set aside $500 million over two years to start it up.

About 35,000 kids will be able to enrol in full-day kindergarten next September, which McGuinty promised will expand to 50,000 kids in 2011, and to all eligible children in 2015 at an estimated cost of $1.5 billion a year.

Teachers will take the lead but also work with early educators in the classroom, said Education Minister Kathleen Wynne.

Class sizes will increase, but there will be enough funding for two adults for every 26 children, McGuinty said. The current provincial cap for primary classes is 20 to 23 students.

If parents want child care before 9 a.m. and after 3:30 p.m, they will have to pay a fee, and the kids will be supervised by an early childhood educator.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premier Dalton McGuinty plays Lego with a kindergarten student at Roden Public School in Toronto yesterday after announcing the province will move ahead with full-day kindergarten.

News in brief

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Ontario Hospital Association is asking the government to extend freedom of information laws to cover the province's 155 hospitals. CEO Tom Closson says recent controversies involving eHealth and the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp. should be viewed as a "wake-up call" for leaders of all public-sector organizations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Facebook expected to make changes

PROFILES Facebook is expected to announce a new policy on how it handles profiles of deceased users in the next week, a spokeswoman for Canada's privacy commissioner said.

The social networking site has been reminding members about a service that "memorializes" profiles of deceased users at the request of friends and family members.

Privacy

- A memorialized profile changes privacy settings so no status updates can be made, contact information is hidden, and only confirmed friends can access the profile.

But Facebook has yet to adopt privacy commissioner Jennifer Stoddart's recommendation for more disclosure about what happens to users' personal information after they die.

Commissioner spokeswoman Anne-Marie Hayden says Facebook was expected to post a new privacy policy within 10 weeks, which would mean it's due in the next seven days.

Facebook has more than 300 million active users worldwide, including about 12 million in Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ex-board member to design hotel at Ex

CONTRACT A longtime member of the Exhibition Place board of governors has been awarded the contract to design a $100-million hotel that he helped approve.

In March 2008, Toronto architect Rocco Maragna voted in favour of choosing New York-based HK Hotels to build the 26-storey, 300-room hotel — the final piece of a massive conference centre at the City of Toronto-owned Exhibition site.

Projects

- Maragna has built a career designing small projects in the city, often in joint ventures with other architectural firms.

Last March, while still on the board, Maragna was hired by HK Hotels to design the new hotel. This raised eyebrows among some board members. Several weeks ago, Maragna resigned from the board.

In an interview, the architect said once he was chosen by HK Hotels, he declared a conflict of interest whenever the board discussed the hotel.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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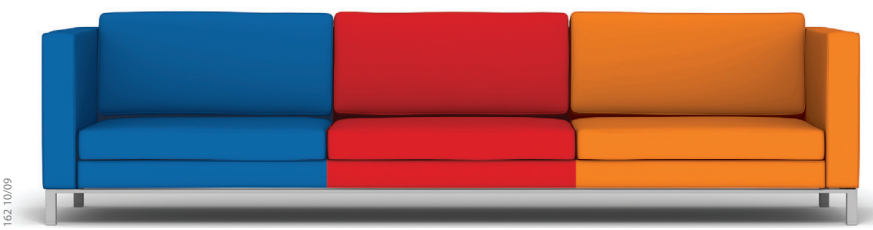

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ROM appoints new trustees
The Royal Ontario Museum announced that it has appointed Atul Tiwari and Ron Graham to the ROM Board of Trustees for a three-year term. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto police Const. Erwin Huber, right, carries a computer seized from the Barbara Frum Library yesterday. Twenty-seven computers were seized as part of a search for missing teen Miriam Makhniashvili, who turned 18 yesterday.

Cops seize computers in search for missing teen

DISAPPEARANCE Toronto police are searching two libraries after learning that missing teen Mariam Makhniashvili used the facilities prior to her disappearance last month.

Investigators yesterday executed a search warrant and began seizing computers at the Forest Hill Public Library and Barbara Frum Public Library.

They have taken more than 20 machines, and say they will be using them to examine who the girl contacted and what websites she visited. Police say she used the computers over the summer months.

"What we're looking for is what she was feeling at the time, as well as anyone she may have been communicating with that we're not aware of," Const. Tony Vella told TV station CP24.

"The reasoning why she used computers at the library, rather than at school or at home, still remains a mystery."

"But once we have an opportunity of examining the computers, as soon as we retrieve information in regards to her, then we'll have a better understanding."

Yesterday marked Mariam's 18th birthday and more than six weeks since her disappearance. She was last seen outside Forest Hill Collegiate Institute on Sept. 14.

The only clue police have found so far is Mariam's backpack, which was discovered with some school books in a parking lot on Oct. 8.

Her parents say it's unlikely she ran away since she left home with no money, no passport and no extra clothes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Don't get spooked by H1N1

Parents can soothe Halloween flu fears — with a few precautions

Flu Outbreak

Something more frightening than ghosts and goblins may be lurking in the shadows this Halloween when kids go door-to-door or dig into their candy stash.

Doctors say crowded parties or communal candy bowls could potentially contribute to the spread of the H1N1 flu, but that with a little common sense children and parents should be able to avoid any unexpected scares.

Halloween isn't typically known as an occasion where children spread illness more than any other time, but it does combine several key risk factors for spreading the flu, says Dr. Anne Matlow, director of infection prevention and control at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children.

"Crowds of kids ... the excitement of putting your hands in all that candy and just eating stuff as you go along and kids all crowded around the door," she says. "You add it all up, it's got the makings for something." Matlow says first and foremost, kids who are not feeling well should stay home.

Children should avoid eating anything that is not wrapped. Attention should also be paid when children are allowed to reach into a bowl to pull out treats, because a virus on one child's hand could end up on the candy and picked up by another child.

Handwashing or using hand sanitizer can cut down the risk, she says.

"When you come home and want to sort through your candies, you should first wash your hands."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Costume caution

- Dr. Bonnie Henry, director of Public Health Emergency Management at the B.C. Centre for Disease Control, says swallowing candy with the virus on it won't get kids infected. But suggests parents use caution when shopping for costumes. A mask in a costume store could be contaminated for a few hours if the last person to try it on was sick and coughed while wearing it, although the risk is low. She suggests visually sizing up masks in the store, then wiping them with a sanitizing cloth before trick-or-treating.

Art installation **Bear Hunt at Sculpture Garden**

RAPHAEL DERELLE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A woman looks over an installation entitled Bear Hunt, created by artist Dean Drever, at the Toronto Sculpture Garden yesterday.

Other shoe to drop on cuts, says McGuinty

DEFICIT There's another shoe yet to drop as Ontario battles its economic woes but upcoming program and service cuts won't be sweeping, Premier Dalton McGuinty said yesterday.

"We're not going to deal with our significant deficit in an unthinking way," McGuinty said. "We're not just going to simply cut everything — that is unthinking. Neither are we going to pretend that we don't have a problem on our hands, because we do."

The province is grappling with a deficit of nearly $25 billion, and has launched a review of all programs and services to ensure money is being well-spent. That review will result in some cuts that won't be specified until the March budget.

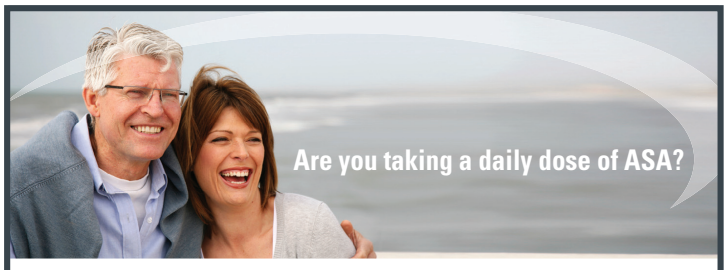
Opposition Leader Tim Hudak blasted McGuinty for what he considers foot-dragging, saying now is a time for action, not prolonged reflection.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man convicted of dangerous driving

CRASH A judge ruled yesterday that "brazen" driving manoeuvres made Alan Kippax criminally responsible for the crash that killed his cousin and severely injured the other car's two occupants, a soon-to-be-married couple.

Madame Justice Deena Baltman convicted Kippax, 41, of dangerous driving causing death and two counts of dangerous driving causing bodily harm. Sentencing is set for Jan. 28. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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Canwest lawyers in severance talks

MEDIA Lawyers involved in Canwest's restructuring appeared in a downtown Toronto court yesterday to iron out how severance payments owed to former employees will be handled as the company restructures under creditor protection.

The severance payments were essentially halted when Canwest filed for creditor protection, and former workers will have to line up with all others who are owed money by Canwest to make a claim. At issue yesterday was the legal representation of various employees. Canwest lawyer Lyndon Barnes told the court he felt the employees were well-represented, and that further dividing up representation for employees could delay restructuring. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Protection

- Earlier this month, Canwest filed for creditor protection for some parts of its business, including its conventional television assets and the National Post.

News in brief

TOY THEFT Police are on the hunt for a fourth suspect after a truckload of toys destined for needy children was stolen last month. A warrant has been issued for the arrest of Fredrick MacKenzie, 43, of no fixed address. The Toys For Tots donations were stolen on Sept. 26 from the Rexdale Boulevard and Bethridge Road area. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Third robbery suspect arrested
York police have arrested a third suspect following a violent robbery in Richmond Hill last Wednesday in which four assailants punched and stabbed the 18-year-old driver of a car parked near Bluesky Crescent and Nightstar Drive. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Study finds more teens with risk factors for heart disease

More than one in five teenagers has at least one risk factor for heart disease such as obesity and high cholesterol, a jump from just six years earlier, suggests new research.

Researchers partnered with a group that has been following the heart health of thousands of teenagers in the Niagara region of Ontario for more than two decades.

They found that between the years 2002 and 2008, the number of Grade 9 students with one or more cardiovascular risk factors rose to 21 per cent from 17 per cent. The number of obese teens went from 11 per cent to 13 per cent, while those with elevated cholesterol almost doubled from nine per cent to 16 per cent.

"The origins of heart disease in adults actually begins in youth."
Dr. Brian McCrindle

The figures mirror what's going on in Canadian society, said Dr. Brian McCrindle, a pediatric cardiologist at The Hospital for Sick Children.

"What needs to be brought to bear within the public realm is that the origins of heart disease in adults actually begins in youth, and it begins in youth with the accumulation of these risk factors," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Quebec's former lieutenant-governor denies wrongdoing

Former Quebec lieutenant-governor Lise Thibault, 70, pleaded not guilty yesterday to six charges related to the alleged fraud of $700,000 while she was the Queen's representative in the province between 1997 and 2007. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Ignatieff eyes high-speed rail line

If you want to see another NHL game in Quebec City, you'll have to get there via high-speed train. At least that's the deal if the Liberals were in power. Leader Michael Ignatieff says he hopes for the return of the Quebec Nordiques, but his funding priority would be the often-discussed and never-built high-speed rail link from Quebec City to Windsor. THE CANADIAN PRESS

G8 funds land far from site

Cash for Huntsville summit also going to towns in minister's riding

A $50-million federal fund set up to build infrastructure for next June's G8 summit is being spent partly on projects that are far from the summit site and with tenuous links to the high-powered meeting.

Industry Minister Tony Clement announced the low-profile fund last February, explaining that the fund was being "provided for G8 Summit-related infrastructure, including a G8 Centre in Huntsville."

Huntsville, Ont., will host the meeting. The town of 18,000 is in Clement's riding, about 215 kilometres north of Toronto.

Huntsville has received the largest share of the money, mainly $16.7 million for a new G8 Centre, $9 million for a summit management office and $2.4 million for road improvements.

But a partial list of the fund's projects, and a series of news releases, shows that many of the towns in Clement's riding are receiving money from the fund to build band shells, plant gardens and put up signs and lights.

One news release announced $1.1 million to upgrade a street and replace trees in Parry Sound, Ont., some 80 kilometres away from the summit site. The area just south of Parry Sound is receiving $745,000 for signs, fencing and landscaping in the towns of Rosseau, Humphrey and Orrville.

The towns of Port Severn and South River, many kilometres from the summit, are each getting $65,000 for signs and landscaping, too.

"How is this justified? In what way is this going to improve the G8?" asked Liberal MP Gerard Kennedy.

Clement spokesman Erik Waddell said the money is well spent, since the summit is expected to draw huge crowds and they will be staying in neighbouring towns, not just Huntsville. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Industry Minister Tony Clement

Pipeline project still on track

GAS Two major backers of the Mackenzie natural gas pipeline are pressing ahead with their plans for the $16.2-billion project, despite a report suggesting Ottawa may yank its financial support.

Imperial Oil Ltd., the lead partner in the long-delayed and over-budget Arctic development, is "aware of nothing new" regarding the federal financial assistance package, company spokesman Pius Rolheiser said yesterday.

Citing unidentified sources, the National Post reported a federal cabinet committee rejected a financial assistance package proposed by Environment Minister Jim Prentice in support of the pipeline.

Prentice said yesterday the pipeline's proponents are still evaluating Ottawa's offer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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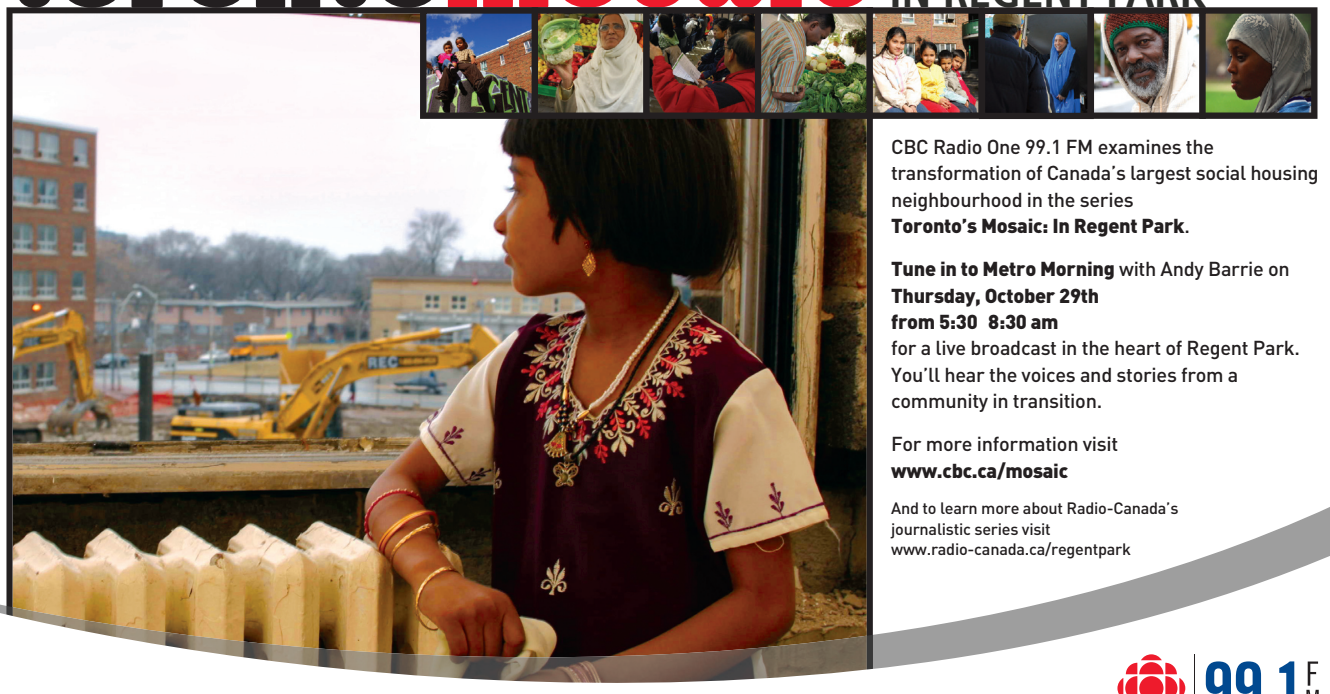
News in brief

DENIAL Prime Minister Stephen Harper is denying his government is singling out Canadian diplomat Richard Colvin, who's warned of possible torture in Afghan jails, by refusing to pay his legal bills. THE CANADIAN PRESS

torontomosaic IN REGENT PARK



CBC Radio One 99.1 FM examines the transformation of Canada's largest social housing neighbourhood in the series **Toronto's Mosaic: In Regent Park**.

Tune in to Metro Morning with Andy Barrie on **Thursday, October 29th from 5:30 8:30 am** for a live broadcast in the heart of Regent Park. You'll hear the voices and stories from a community in transition.

For more information visit **www.cbc.ca/mosaic**

And to learn more about Radio-Canada's journalistic series visit www.radio-canada.ca/regentpark

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CBC 99.1 FM radio one

THE CLOCKS ARE CHANGING AND SO ARE WE

STARTING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2009, THERE WILL BE CHANGES TO SOME GO TRAIN AND BUS SERVICES.

01 – LAKESHORE WEST GO TRAIN & BUS

Minor adjustments to train schedules, including some earlier departures, to better reflect typical travel times. Buses that connect to the adjusted train trips will also have time changes.

12 – NIAGARA FALLS GO BUS

Minor schedule updates to better reflect typical travel times. The weekday 5:10 p.m. eastbound trip from Grimsby will be discontinued.

NEW 20 – MILTON-OAKVILLE GO BUS

Weekday Milton to Bronte trips will now serve the new bus loop at Sheridan College's Trafalgar Campus and the Oakville GO Station. Departure times will be adjusted in both directions and buses will no longer serve the Bronte GO station or the stop on the east side of Trafalgar Rd., south of Ceremonial Rd.

21 – MILTON GO BUS

The weekday eastbound 9:50 a.m. trip from Cooksville GO Station to the Union Station GO Bus Terminal will now start at the Square One GO Bus Terminal, departing at 9:35.

NEW 25 – WATERLOO GO BUS

This brand new route will serve the University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier University, Kitchener Bus Terminal at Charles & Ontario, SmartCentres Cambridge at Hespeler Rd. & Hwy. 401, the Aberfoyle GO Park & Ride, Milton Park & Ride/Carpool Lot, and the Square One GO Bus Terminal.

Two weekday morning eastbound trips will also stop at the Milton GO Station and connect with the 6:48 and 7:23 a.m. trains to Union Station. Two weekday evening westbound trips, which connect to train service, will depart Milton GO Station at 5:33 and 6:28 p.m. and make all stops to Waterloo.

31 – GEORGETOWN GO TRAIN & BUS

Minor adjustments to eastbound train schedules, including some earlier departures, to better reflect typical travel times.

Minor updates to westbound train times at Malton, Bramalea, Brampton, Mount Pleasant and Georgetown. Times from Union, Bloor, Weston and Etobicoke North remain the same.

Buses that connect to the adjusted train trips will also have time changes.

Weekday northbound bus trips from Bramalea and Brampton to Orangeville, and from Malton to Bolton, will be adjusted to connect to the updated train times.

60 – WONDERLAND GO BUS

Service will end for the season after Sunday, November 1, 2009.

65 – BARRIE-BRADFORD GO BUS

The weekday southbound trip departing Newmarket GO Bus Terminal at 5:30 a.m. will now serve the Aurora Rd. & Hwy. 404 Carpool Lot at 5:45. With this change, the trip that departs Aurora GO Station at 5:40 a.m. will no longer serve the Aurora Rd. & Hwy. 404 Carpool Lot.

88 – PETERBOROUGH GO BUS

Buses will now also serve the Clarington North Park & Ride/Carpool Lot on Hwy. 35 at Hwy. 115. With this new stop, southbound trips will depart Trent University five minutes earlier and all other times along the route will be adjusted. Northbound times will also be adjusted.

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Anchors aweigh! Unexpected drop jolts giant B.C. ferry
An anchor unexpectedly dropped from the Spirit of British Columbia, one of the largest vessels in the B.C. Ferries fleet, while the ship was mid-voyage. B.C. Ferries said no passengers were hurt and the ship was not damaged. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Retirees get some help

Retirees rejoice. Ottawa is protecting your pensions — a little.

The federal government says it will change the way federally-regulated company pension plans are run to provide greater protection for retirees.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty yesterday unveiled changes he said will help put private-sector plans on a more sound footing.

The changes will extend guarantees that pensioners won't get short shrift in bad economic times.

"I wouldn't expect it to have a large impact."
Malcolm Hamilton

But the reforms don't cover the vast majority of pension plans under provincial jurisdiction — such as the plan at Nortel Networks, where workers fear the technology company's dismantling under bankruptcy protection will leave them out in the cold.

Malcolm Hamilton, with Mercer Human Resource Consulting, said the changes will do little to fix short-term problems.

"I wouldn't expect it to have a large impact and it would certainly have no immediate impact," Hamilton said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

H1N1 Lining up to stay healthy

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hundreds of people wait in line yesterday for an H1N1 shot at a health clinic in Elmsdale, N.S.

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Porky the Pig just missed a swine flu shot

Flu Outbreak

VACCINE Should Porky the Pig get a swine flu shot?

That's a question Canada's food safety watchdog pondered this spring after an Alberta hog farmer's herd caught the H1N1 virus, a newly released document shows.

An internal report from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency suggests officials considered sticking pigs with a swine flu needle to stop the virus from spreading through herds.

"Vaccination can be a useful tool for control and eradication of emerging diseases as an alternative to large-scale slaughter and disposal of 'at-risk' animals," the report says.

The document was sent to the agency's top veterinary officer and its president April 25 — four days after the Alberta pigs started showing flu-like symptoms. The Canadian Press obtained the document under the Access to Information Act.

Pigs can catch flu viruses from infected pigs and people, mostly from coughing and sneezing.

But there's no proof people can get the H1N1 influenza virus (also known as swine flu) from pigs or eating pork.

The outbreak at the farm near Rocky Mountain House, Alta., was the first-ever report of the new virus in pigs, and the source of the infection remains a mystery. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Protecting Porky

- Vaccinating pigs against flu viruses is common. Some U.S. drug companies make flu vaccines for pigs that are licensed in Canada, which are sort of like seasonal flu shots for pigs.
- Pigs may be highly vulnerable to bird and human strains of flu viruses.

Party shuts out top Tories

POLITICS Quebec's third-place provincial party is severing ties to senior federal Conservatives, including a key fundraiser.

The Action démocratique du Québec says Sen. Leo Housakos and other high-ranking Tories will no longer be allowed to hold positions of influence within the tiny party.

The party says it wants a distinct identity after being closely linked to the federal Tories.

Housakos is a senior Tory organizer, and was the ADQ's chief fundraiser. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

CORRUPTION Michael Ignatieff is the latest politician to brush off calls for a public inquiry into an alleged corruption scheme involving politicians, construction companies and the Mafia. The Liberal leader says the Quebec government has done a good job appointing a special police unit to probe allegations of a massive scam. Quebec has been rocked by reports that construction firms work together to drive up the price tag on public-works projects and share their profits with the Mafia. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I never get the flu."
"I hear it's not that serious."
"I'll wait to see what happens."
"Why should I bother with the H1N1 flu shot?"

I hear it all the time – various reasons for people not getting their H1N1 flu shot. The fact is H1N1 flu is now circulating in our communities and resulting in illness, even among young healthy people. It's new, it's different and it spreads quickly. It can result in serious illness and hospitalization. The best advice I can give you is – don't risk it. Get your H1N1 flu shot as soon as you can. It's safe and the best way to protect yourself, your family and those around you. Flu shots will be made available first to health care workers, pregnant women, people under 65 years of age with chronic medical conditions, children six months to five years old, those living in remote and isolated communities, as well as people living with or caring for those at high risk who cannot be immunized. For the general public, check the website below for flu clinics, times and scheduling.

Dr. Arlene King, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health

For the most current information about H1N1 flu and the clinics near you: ontario.ca/flu
Or call ServiceOntario INFOline at: 1-800-476-9708 TTY: 1-800-387-5559

This year it's a different flu season

Protect yourself against the flu

Get the H1N1 flu shot.

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Quebec's deficit set to soar

Quebec is projecting a deficit of $4.7 billion this year, up from the $3.9 billion laid out in last spring's budget. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Battery billionaire

French tycoon plans new-era plant near Montreal

French billionaire Vincent Bollore is joining the global rush to build electric batteries for the vehicles of tomorrow.

And he's setting up shop near Montreal.

Bollore says his company, Bollore Group, will invest $120 million in a battery-producing factory east of Montreal.

He plans to hire 200 workers to build batteries that will be used in electric cars and buses.

Bollore says his batteries, based on lithium-metal-polymer technology, are safer than the lithium-ion power plants used by major automakers.

He says lithium-ion batteries, often used in laptops, have been known to overheat.

The company describes the plant as just the second such project in the world.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Who is Bollore?

- Last year, Forbes listed Vincent Bollore among the richest people on Earth, worth an estimated $1.4 billion US.
- The company he leads employs 33,000 around the world.
- He's a close friend of French President Nicolas Sarkozy. Their friendship goes back 20 years.

Montreal **Hands up if you think you're a winner**

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Montreal mayoral candidate Louise Harel and incumbent Gerald Tremblay react yesterday during a debate in Montreal. Montrealers go to the polls Sunday.

Call it power politics: Furor over New Brunswick utility

HYDRO Is an electric shock looming over the future of NB Power, the public utility company of New Brunswick?

New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham yesterday downplayed talk of an imminent deal with Quebec on the future of the utility.

He said he hopes to negotiate a memorandum of understanding and will allow for sufficient debate before any deal is signed.

Graham has been under pressure to reveal details of discussions with Hydro-Quebec amid fears New Brunswick could give up control of NB Power.

> **"The premier has been working to sell our most valued asset ... in a cloud of secrecy."**
> David Alward

Graham declined to provide any details of the negotiations, except to say talks were at a critical stage.

News of a memorandum didn't resolve the concerns of Conservative Opposition Leader David Alward.

"The premier has been working to sell our most valued asset right out from underneath every New Brunswicker in a cloud of secrecy," he said.

Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams has accused the Quebec utility company of trying to scupper his plans to develop the Lower Churchill hydroelectric project in Labrador.

Williams has said he would fight any proposed deal by Hydro-Quebec to take over key power assets in New Brunswick.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

SEAL HUNT Nova Scotia's environment minister would be given more power to approve a commercial grey seal hunt in a protected area of the province under proposed amendments tabled yesterday in the legislature. Sterling Belliveau, who is also the fisheries minister, would have the authority to allow the hunt on Hay Island without having to consider the hunt's effects on the area's biodiversity. Bridget Curran, of the Atlantic Canadian Anti-Sealing Coalition, says Belliveau is pandering to fishing industry interests by changing the law to make it easier to allow the hunt.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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11:30 - 11:45am	The BeatleManiacs
12:30 - 12:45pm	Australian Sensation Gregg Arthur
1:30 - 1:45pm	ZoomerShow Fashion Show
2:30 - 2:45pm	My Mothers Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding Musical
3:30 - 3:45pm	Tribute to Michael Jackson
3:50 - 4:05pm	Rod Stewart / Tom Jones Tribute
4:35 - 4:50pm	Uptown Swing Band

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

9:30 - 9:45am	Ulster Accordion Band
10:30 - 10:45am	L'Elegance Ballroom Dancers
11:30 - 11:45am	Australian Sensation Gregg Arthur
12:30 - 12:45pm	The BeatleManiacs
1:30 - 1:45pm	ZoomerShow Fashion Show
2:30 - 2:45pm	The Sound of Music Farewell
3:30 - 3:45pm	AbbaMania / Bee Gees Tribute
3:50 - 4:05pm	Tribute to Michael Jackson
4:35 - 4:50pm	Uptown Swing Band

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U.S. Coast Guard report says 9/11 training exercise ill-advised

The U.S. Coast Guard says holding a training exercise near Washington's Pentagon on Sept. 11 this year was ill-advised but did not violate agency policies. The conclusions are from an internal review that looked into the events and actions that led to false news reports of gunfire on the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Police break up bogus marriage ring

Spanish police say they have broken up a gang that arranged around 100 bogus marriages for immigrants seeking residency papers and arrested 34 suspects including a priest. A police statement says the gang charged $15,000 to $18,000 to set up fake unions, and most of the foreigners who used the service were Colombians involved in drug trafficking.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

FRANCE A Paris court convicted the Church of Scientology of fraud and fined it more than $900,000 yesterday, but stopped short of banning the group's activities. The court convicted the church's French office, its library and six of its leaders of organized fraud. Investigators said the group pressured members into paying large sums of money for questionable financial gain and used "commercial harassment" against recruits.

ITALY A prominent opposition politician embroiled in a scandal over his alleged encounter with a transsexual prostitute has resigned his job as head of the region that includes Rome. The office for Piero Marrazzo said yesterday he had resigned as governor of the Lazio region. Media reports say there is video evidence of Marrazzo's July encounter with the prostitute. Four policemen have been arrested for allegedly attempting to blackmail him.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lower expectations

UN scales back hope for quick global climate change deal

Just weeks before an international conference on climate change, the United Nations signalled it was scaling back expectations of reaching agreement on a new treaty to slow global warming.

Janos Pasztor, director of the UN secretary-general's Climate Change Support Team, said yesterday "it's hard to say how far the conference will be able to go" because the U.S. Congress has not agreed on a climate bill, and industrialized nations have not agreed on targets to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions or funding to help developing countries limit their discharges.

Pasztor told a news conference "there is tremendous activity by governments in capitals and internationally to shape the outcome" of the climate change conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, in early December, which "is a good development" because political leadership is essential to make a deal.

But he indicated that Copenhagen most likely won't produce a treaty, but instead will push governments as far as they can go on the content of an agreement. Ban said he plans to meet with U.S. Senate leaders to encourage passage of a climate bill. By doing so, they "can have a huge political impact for other negotiators of other countries," Ban said. Many developing nations, such as China and India, "are ready to make some political compromises only if and only when the United States is ready to do that." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Replacing Kyoto

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has made a new climate treaty his top priority, after hosting a Sept. 22 summit on climate change to build momentum for a global agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol, which only requires 37 industrialized nations to cut emissions.

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Obama looks to modernize American power grid

FLORIDA U.S. President Barack Obama made a pitch for renewable energy yesterday, announcing $3.4 billion US in government support for 100 projects aimed at modernizing the American power grid.

Touring a field of solar energy panels in Florida, the president urged greater use of several technologies to make the country's power transmission system more efficient and better suited to the digital age. The projects include installing "smart" electric meters in homes, automating utility substations, and installing thousands of digital transformers and grid sensors. He likened the effort to the ambitious development of the national highway system 50 years ago.

But even as Obama pitched more efficient and renewable energy use, his trip made it clear that old habits die hard. He arrived in a motorcade of gas-guzzling SUVs. While waiting for the motorcade to get started, vans kept their engines running to provide air conditioning for occupants escaping a hot Florida sun.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GERALD HERBERT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barack Obama tours the DeSoto Next Generation Solar Energy Center yesterday in Florida.

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New York museum returning fragment

Egypt's antiquities department says New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art is returning a fragment of an ancient Egyptian shrine. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto connection to U.S.-Danish terror case

A Canadian is one of two Chicago men charged with plotting terrorist attacks against targets outside the United States, including a Danish newspaper that sparked outrage among Muslims by publishing cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad.

U.S. prosecutors said Canadian citizen Tahawwur Hussain Rana, 48, and David Coleman Headley, 49, have been charged in separate complaints filed in U.S. District Court in Chicago.

Headley travelled to Denmark in January and July to conduct surveillance on possible targets, including the Copenhagen and Aarhus offices of the Jyllands-Posten newspaper, prosecutors said.

According to an FBI affidavit released yesterday, Headley told FBI agents the initial plan called for an attack against the newspaper building in Copenhagen, but he later proposed just killing the paper's cartoonist and former cultural editor.

Officials say Rana is a native of Pakistan and citizen of Canada who primarily resides in Chicago.

POLFOTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Danish cartoonist Kurt Westergaard is seen yesterday in Copenhagen. Westergaard outraged many Muslims in 2005 with his cartoon depiction of the Prophet Muhammad as a terrorist.

North York

- First World Immigration Services' Toronto branch is located on the 15th floor of the Xerox building at Yonge and Finch, in North York's Koreatown. Building management said no RCMP or FBI officers have visited the office, and said very little about the company, only that it's staffed by one person. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The complaint against Rana alleges he made travel arrangements for Headley under the auspices of the business he runs, First World Immigration Services, which has offices in Toronto, Chicago and New York.

An employee reached at the Toronto office denied any knowledge of Rana and offered no comment on his arrest. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

BRITAIN British lawyers looking for ways to hold Israel accountable for its deadly advance into Gaza last year have expanded their legal campaign by seeking the arrest of Israeli military officers entering Britain. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Jordan	3.9¢	Italy	2.9¢
Kenya	from 6.9¢	Russia	from 2.9¢
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EU imposes embargo on Guinea
The European Union imposed an arms embargo and visa ban on Guinea's military leaders yesterday to punish them for a massacre at a pro-democracy rally. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Human rights group blasts Guinea leaders

The massacre of at least 150 people and rapes of dozens of women by troops in Guinea last month were premeditated and aimed at terrorizing opponents to military rule, a U.S.-based rights group said yesterday, adding the rapes persisted for days.

Human Rights Watch said dozens of women were seized from the stadium where the Sept. 28 massacre took place and from clinics in Guinea's capital, where they were seeking medical treatment. They were driven in military vehicles to villas, where they were gang-raped by uniformed men over several days, the group said. The leader of Guinea's military junta has said "uncontrolled" elements of the army carried out the rapes and killings. But top aides of military leader Capt. Moussa Dadis Camara were at the stadium and did nothing to stop the mass killings and rapes, the report said, implicating the junta in the massacre.

"There is no way the government can continue to imply the deaths were ... accidental," said Georgette Gagnon, Africa director at Human Rights Watch.

150 At least 150 civilians were killed by troops in Guinea last month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghan blasts kill eight U.S. troops

WAR Eight American troops were killed in two separate bomb attacks yesterday in southern Afghanistan, making October the deadliest month of the war for U.S. forces since the 2001 invasion to oust the Taliban.

In one of the insurgent assaults, seven Americans were killed while patrolling in armoured vehicles, U.S. forces spokesman Lt. Col. Todd Vician said. He said an Afghan civilian died in the same attack. The eighth American was killed in a separate bombing elsewhere in the south, also while patrolling in a military vehicle, he said.

The military issued a statement saying the deaths occurred during "multiple, complex" bomb strikes. It said several troops were wounded and evacuated to a nearby medical facility, but gave no other details.

Kandahar
- Capt. Adam Weece, a spokesman for American forces in the south, said both attacks occurred in Kandahar province.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Motorist jailed after man gets stuck in windshield

CRIME A motorist driving past a minor accident struck three men standing on the side of a highway and drove more than two kilometres with one of them lodged in his windshield, police said.

Christopher Swiridowsky, 30, was charged with leaving the scene of an accident. On Monday, he was ordered to stay in jail for allegedly violating bail from another case. Swiridowsky stopped only because someone was following him, police said. He fled on foot and was later found hiding in his home, police said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

QUEEN India's head of state was greeted with a generous helping of British pageantry as she began a three-day state visit yesterday. Queen Elizabeth II and other members of the Royal Family met President Pratibha Patil as she arrived in Windsor, west of London. The president and the monarch left for Windsor Castle in a procession of carriages.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama must visit Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Japanese activists say
Japanese newspapers and activists are calling for Barack Obama to become the first sitting U.S. president to visit Hiroshima or Nagasaki, the only two cities ever devastated by atomic bombs, ahead of his visit to Japan next month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brazil **Play on!**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/RICARDO STUCKERT, BRAZILIAN PRESIDENCY

In this photo released by Brazil's presidency, Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva plays a trumpet as he poses for a photo with the presidential guard band on his 64th birthday at Alvorada palace in Brasilia yesterday.

Iran throws wrench into West's plans

Iran will seek "important changes" in a UN-drafted plan to ship enriched uranium out of the country for processing, state TV reported yesterday, raising alarm bells among Western leaders who are pushing the deal in hopes of easing concerns over Iran's nuclear program.

The TV report said Iran would agree to the "general framework" of the plan but also request unspecified changes. That suggests Tehran will accept the idea of sending the uranium abroad — something it had previously appeared reluctant to do — but that there could be a tussle with the U.S. and Europe over how it will be sent and how much.

France's foreign minister expressed exasperation with Tehran, saying it is trying to have the proposal "thoroughly reworked." Bernard Kouchner said he doesn't think the plan needs dramatic changes and warned Iran, "It cannot take forever. We wait for answers."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The best laid plans ...

- The plan was formalized by the United Nations last week after talks between Iran and the United States, Russia and France. It calls for Iran to ship 70 per cent of its enriched uranium abroad for further enrichment.

Pakistan takes Taliban fight into mountains

ARMY Pakistan pressed an offensive deeper into Taliban territory along the Afghan border yesterday, claiming to have killed 42 militants in the latest stage of an assault seen as crucial in defeating extremism in the nuclear-armed country.

The assault into South Waziristan's unforgiving mountains has triggered a bloody backlash from militants, who are determined to bring the war out of the remote, northwestern region and into the country's cities in hopes of eroding public and political support.

In the capital Islamabad, gunmen attacked a high-ranking Pakistani army officer in the second targeted shooting against top military brass in less than a week. The army officer, and his mother who was travelling with him, escaped unhurt.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

PLANE CRASH Officials say a small single-engine airplane bound for Ontario's Muskokas apparently had mechanical problems and crashed on take-off from a Michigan airport. They said the unidentified pilot was killed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Channelling the U.S.

Home and native news not to prime minister's liking

TheWestView

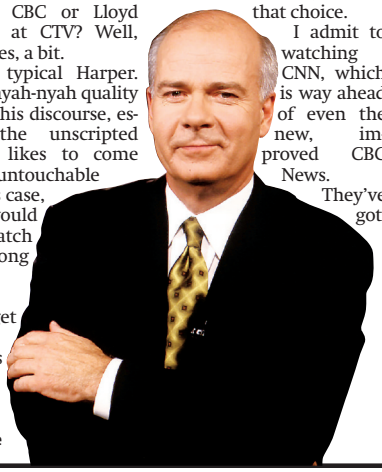
When Stephen Harper let slip recently that he doesn't watch Canadian TV news but it's his "hobby" to watch U.S. TV news, it set off a furor, mostly on Canadian TV news. Although it did make page 8 of the New York Times.

Enemy politicians jumped all over the opportunity for a sound bite like fleas on a dog. Jack Layton said Canadians "should be concerned." Bob Rae? He was "shocked," etc.

Michael Ignatieff wasn't available for comment. He was busy shooting his latest segment on This Hour Has 22 Minutes, that Canadian knock-off of an American news parody, only starring perky, colourful comedians from Newfoundland. When you're No. 2 and fading, you learn to love Canadian TV news, perky Newfoundlanders included.

Does it really matter if Stephen Harper prefers Glenn Beck and Bill O'Reilly on Fox to Peter Mansbridge at CBC or Lloyd Roberston at CTV? Well, yeah, it does, a bit.

This is typical Harper. There's a nyah-nyah quality to a lot of his discourse, especially the unscripted stuff. He likes to come across as untouchable and in this case, he would rather watch the wrong country's newscasts than get caught with his nose pressed to the glass here at home.



Peter Mansbridge

Frankly, he's not much different than a lot of other Canadians who find the U.S. more fascinating than the Great Lite North. If I could follow the fortunes of Barack Obama or Stephen Harper, which one would I choose?

Wait a minute, I have that choice.

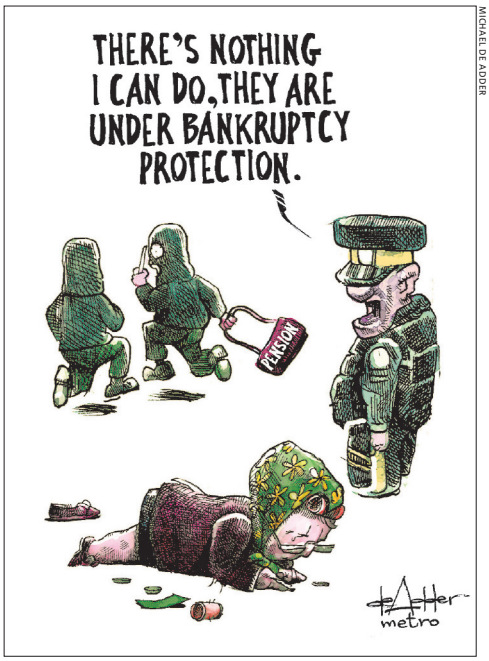
I admit to watching CNN, which is way ahead of even the new, improved CBC News. They've got The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer! They've got holograms! They've got Anderson Cooper 360. They've got Louuuuu Dobbs!

But then, I also watch Canadian TV news. Not just a mere source of information, it is the daily chronicle of our nation, our home. More than that, Canadian TV news is the mirror we hold up to ourselves. It is how we recognize ourselves.

That's why it seems a bit cold for Stephen Harper to avert his gaze, whatever his reason, and turn his attention south. It would be nice if he showed some interest, now and then. If he pretended to care instead of pretending not to care.

But as my grandmother used to say, I should save my breath to cool my porridge. He's not going to read this piece anyway. Right, Steve?

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Online chatter

Follow Metro on Twitter for news updates and more: @metrotoronto

Asked on Twitter: Will you be getting the #H1N1 flu vaccination? Why or why not?

TORONTO

@marygazze: Still debating whether to get the #swine-flu vaccine. Young women are hit hard by H1N1, but shot was approved so fast. U still confused too?

OTTAWA

@JustAnOttawaDad: Got to 100 Constellation for Swine flu vaccine at 3:00, already #50 in line. Doesn't open until 5:00... #ottawa #swine-flu

(Context: 100 Constellation is a community centre that is going to administer vaccinations)

HALIFAX

@adamflight: yes I'll be getting both shots for H1N1 & regular flu, if they have it. I'm getting them, because I'm not stupid!

@worldmind: I'm going to wait to see the results and symptoms of taking such a risky vaccine. the story of Desiree Jennings for example. Otherwise No I trust my Immune system.

EDMONTON

@Cokebear17: I'm sitting on the fence of 50/50 regarding the H1N1 vac. Would like to see how people are feeling wks after the shot

@Winawer: I will be getting the vaccine for #H1N1, because nobody else should have to pay for my failure to make a rational choice.

@DebraWard: If I can, I'm hi risk.

Word on the street: What extra precautions are you taking to reduce the risk of contracting H1N1?

Anthony Marzilli, age 38, Toronto
A: A lot of hand washing, a lot of alcohol.

Diana Deehan, age 23, Toronto
A: Getting the shot, washing my hands, not touching my eyes or nose after being out in public if I haven't washed my hands yet ... They have all of those hand sanitizer stations everywhere now.

Keisuke Motomura, age 24, Toronto
A: I'm going to get the shot ... I'm not worried about getting the shot.

Amy Pyke, age 18, Calgary
A: Nothing in particular, except washing my hands. You see it on the news but it doesn't really seem like a big deal at all ... My mom wants to get a vaccination for it but I don't think it's a big deal.

Abdi Elmi, age 44, Ottawa
A: I'm not worried about it. I don't know anyone who has it. They say it's a problem for young people.

Sade Thomasos, age 23, Vancouver
A: I'm actually in a contemporary health issues class ... that's teaching me ways I can actually help myself and people around me to not contract it, but mostly hand washing more than usual. And I carry sanitizer.

We Know What You're Thinking

48% The number of Canadians who believe in spirits and ghosts.

IPSOS REID

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Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

STOP HAIR LOSS

BIO-FEN PLUS™ is a natural health product used in the treatment of hereditary androgenic alopecia *(AGA)* in adults ***(male or female pattern baldness.)*** It contains scientifically calculated proportions of extracts of fenugreek seeds, saw palmetto berries and flax lignans. Each are known to possess an inhibitor of the enzyme responsible for causing male or female pattern baldness. It also contains a mixture of B vitamins, folate and biotin to help metabolize these herbal extracts so that they are more bio-available, and to support the growth of strong and healthy hair.

What causes hereditary hair loss?

Each hair grows from a pocket in the skin called the hair follicle. During its growing phase, the follicle has a bulb-shaped bottom, the center of which is called the dermal papilla. The papilla is fed by very small blood vessels, which bring it food & oxygen and remove wastes. The papilla is highly sensitive to hormones and chemicals secreted by the body *(or ingested as a medicine)* which impacts hair growth.

It is believed that some individuals have a genetic predisposition to a receding hairline *(most common in men)* or hair/follicle thinning over larger areas of scalp *(more common in women)*. These conditions result from hormonal changes caused by an enzyme in the dermal papilla called 5-alpha-reductase. This enzyme breaks down the hormone testosterone into dihydrotestosterone *(DHT)*.

Over a period of time, an over abundance of DHT causes the hair follicle to degrade and shortens the active phase of the hair, eventually leading to thinner hair and eventual hair loss.

How does BIO-FEN PLUS™ *work?*

Specific compounds within the herbal extracts inhibit the 5-alpha-reductase *(and therefore reduce DHT)* to prevent or slow down the rate of hair loss. This process is the principle by which the prescription drugs such as Propecia *(finasteride)* work. However, BIO-FEN PLUS™ also contains additional compounds which remove excess cholesterol and testosterone – the building blocks of DHT.

BIO-FEN PLUS™ also contains vitamins to increase blood flow to the small capillaries that feed the hair roots, to deliver the active herbal compounds and remove waste. **Therefore, BIO-FEN PLUS™ provides a natural, safer alternative to expensive drugs, and/or expensive & painful hair transplants.** As with the prescription alternatives, results vary from person to person, and no one product will work for everyone.

How long must I use BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

BIO-FEN PLUS™ capsules are usually effective at stopping hair loss within the first two months. However, since healthy hair grows only about 1 cm each month, it may take up to three months before you notice that hair growth is increased or further hair loss is stopped.

Anyone experiencing new growth will see it within four to six months. Once results become apparent, some users are able to reduce their BIO-FEN PLUS™ supplement dose to one capsule every second or every third day. Some clients will continue to take BIO-FEN PLUS™ daily. Once you stop completely, however, your hair growth pattern will slowly go back to the point where you started.

How safe is BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

The ingredient combination in BIO-FEN PLUS™ is generally safe for most adults. However, the following cautions are advised:

Folic acid: Consult a health care practitioner if you are uncertain whether or not you are taking adequate vitamin B12, as folate supplementation can mask a Vitamin B12 deficiency.

Vitamin B3: Consult a health care practitioner prior to use if you have impaired liver function.

Vitamin B6: Consult a health care practitioner prior to use if you are taking levodopa.

What is the quality of BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

BIO-FEN PLUS™ is manufactured in Canada according to a quality assurance program called Good Manufacturing Practices *(GMP)*. This ensures that the ingredients are tested for their level of quality, potency & purity, prior to production and again prior to sale.

See our website to locate your nearest Health Food Store or Pharmacy that offers BIO-FEN PLUS™ and other quality products from Hair Grow Technology. If you have any questions or comments about our products that target hair loss and support the growth of strong, healthy hair, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Each BIO-FEN PLUS™ *capsule contains (mg/capsule):*

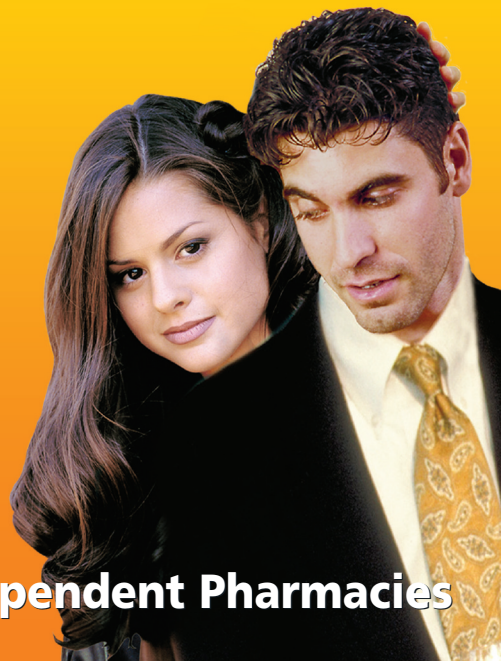
Fenugreek *(Trigonella feonum graecum)* seed extract 4:1	260 mg
Saw palmetto berry extract contains 45% powder, esters & sterols	160 mg
Flax lignans, standardized to 20% secoisolariciresinol diglucoside *(SDG)*	100 mg
D-calcium pantothenate *(Vitamin B5)*	10.40 mg
Niacinamide *(Vitamin B3)*	10.25 mg
Pyridoxine HCl *(Vitamin B6)*	2.00 mg
Riboflavin *(Vitamin B2)*	1.58 mg
Folic acid	0.095 mg
Biotin	400 mcg

Non-medicinal ingredients: inert microcrystalline cellulose and vegetable-based magnesium stearate in a veggie-based capsule.

Recommended adult dose: one capsule per day

BIO-FEN PLUS

www.biofen.com



Available at Health Food stores and Independent Pharmacies

Continental changes teams

Air Canada customers gain 77 new destinations while the airline pockets new revenue after Continental Airlines changed teams yesterday, joining the Star Alliance partnership that includes United Airlines, US Airways, Air Canada and Lufthansa. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

DOLLAR	GAS	OIL	TSX
US 93.80¢	US $4.55	US $79.55	11,053.54
US 0.08¢	US 4.4¢	US 87¢	181.34

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Smartphones pad Rogers' bottom line

Rogers Communications Inc. reported a surprisingly strong third quarter yesterday as the popularity of smartphones boosted revenue and profit at its wireless division, offsetting declines at the media sector.

The wireless division accounted for $846 million of adjusted operating profit, up 22 per cent from $693 million a year ago.

Nadir Mohamed, Rogers president and chief executive, said the most significant driver on the wireless side was record high growth in wireless data revenues from smartphones like the Apple iPhone and BlackBerry products. Data represented about 23 per cent of total wireless revenue.

$3.03B Overall revenue was $3.03 billion, compared with $2.98 billion last year. Net income was $485 million or 79 cents a share for the quarter, compared to year-earlier earnings of $495 million or 78 cents a share.

The company did, however, see a drop in its roaming and out-of-pocket services, which it attributed to a weak economy and higher unemployment rates.

There were also fewer hardware upgrades to the amount of Apple's iPhones purchased, which led to slower wireless equipment sales for the quarter.

The company's overall cable division showed a three per cent increase in adjusted operating profit, which rose to $329 million from $318 million a year ago, while media division's adjusted operating profit fell to $36 million from $43 million.

Rogers said the declines in its media side were a result of a drop in ads and consumer discretionary spending. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lululemon shares spring upward

YOGA WEAR Shares of Lululemon Athletica Inc. jumped nearly nine per cent yesterday after the yoga wear retailer raised its earnings guidance for its third quarter due to better than expected sales.

In trading on the TSX, Lululemon shares rose $2.43 or 8.87 per cent to close at $29.82.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Lululemon sales surge.

Late Monday after markets closed, the athletic clothing retailer said it expects diluted earnings per share to be between 17 cents and 19 cents compared with earlier guidance for between 11 cents and 13 cents.

Lululemon said it also now expects net revenue to be between $110 million to $112 million for the quarter ended Nov. 1 compared with earlier guidance for $95 million to $100 million and $87 million a year ago. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

FUEL CELL Ballard Power Systems narrowed its annual revenue guidance for the second time this year, citing flat performance of its fuel-cell products year-to-date and a steep drop in other business segments. Vancouver-based Ballard, whose products are used in everything from transit buses and forklifts to backup power units, said 2009 revenue is expected to be $50 million US, which is at the low end of its latest set of expectations. That compares to $59.8 million in 2008.

GLOBAL ECONOMY Former U.S. vice-president Al Gore says it is too early for the United States and other leading economies to shift their focus away from stimulus efforts because the economy remains fragile. Gore told a conference in Dubai yesterday that the world is recovering from the economic downturn, but progress remains slow. He said the outlook for jobs remains weak, and the world still faces a drawn-out recovery. He said policy-makers should keep focusing on stimulating the economy rather than reducing deficit. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Daimler **Falling star**

THOMAS KIENZLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

An employee of Daimler AG mounts the Mercedes star on the hood of a Mercedes-Benz E-class car on the production line at the company's Sindelfingen, Germany, facility. German car and truck maker Daimler AG yesterday said its net income fell 74 per cent in the third quarter as the global downturn resulted in steep revenue drops at its truck and van businesses.

Inmet's profit hit as higher prices offset by lower sales

MINING Metals miner Inmet Mining Corp. reported yesterday a third-quarter profit of $61.6 million, down 18 per cent from a year-earlier $75.1 million as sales fell three per cent.

The Toronto-based company reported net earnings of $1.10 per share, versus earnings of $1.55 per share a year earlier.

Sales edged down to $241.1 million from $247.5 million as higher metal prices were offset by lower sales volumes, Inmet said in a statement.

Capital spending during the quarter fell to $23.8 million from $94.4 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Global miner

- Inmet is a Canadian-based global company that produces copper, zinc and gold in Canada, Europe and Asia.
- It has interests in four mines: Cayeli in Turkey, Pyhasalmi in Finland, Troilus in Quebec, and Ok Tedi in Papua New Guinea.

Telus drops system access fee, 911 charge

CELLPHONES In an attempt to attract new wireless subscribers in an increasingly competitive market, Telus Corp. said yesterday it's introducing new rate plans with no system access fees or carrier 911 fees for businesses and consumers.

The announcement follows a similar move by Rogers Communications last month to eliminate both fees, although this was followed by the introduction of a new "regulatory recovery fee" that will cost customers between $2.46 and $3.46 per month depending on the province.

This leaves Bell Canada as the only major wireless provider that still charges for 911 and system access.

Telus said its new plans will be launched Nov. 5 along with a new high-capacity wireless network that will run Apple's iPhone. THE CANADIAN PRESS

iPhones

- In less than two weeks, Telus, Bell and Rogers will all be selling iPhones in a market that has been the exclusive domain of Rogers since mid-2008.

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CPR says property sales lifted profits
Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd. says the sale of two large properties helped boost its third-quarter profit despite a 20 per cent drop in revenue from operations as most of its freight segments showed the effect of a slow economy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

China **Wal-Mart expansion**

VINCENT YU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man leaves Wal-Mart's first Sam's Club location in the Chinese city of Guangzhou yesterday. An opening ceremony was held for the store, which bring the number of Wal-Mart locations in China to more than 160. The company has singled out China and Brazil as international markets where it wants to focus on building new stores.

CIBC warns of threat from rising loonie

Carney says currency intervention has limited appeal

Canada's central bank must be prepared to rein in the dollar if it gets too high or risk hollowing out the country's industrial base, CIBC warned yesterday, adding to calls for Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney to intervene in currency markets.

The warning from the chief economist at Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce comes at a time when the central bank has held out the possibility of intervention — although it hasn't said it will do so.

The Bank of Canada hasn't recently used its power to buy and sell huge quantities of Canadian dollars and other currencies to affect the loonie's value, although it has done so in years past.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney awaits the start of a commons finance committee hearing yesterday.

"History has shown that intervention, in and of itself — without policy moves that are consistent with the direction of that intervention — seldom is effective over the longer term," Carney told a House of Commons committee yesterday.

But Carney said recent rise in the Canadian dollar has created a "downside risk" to the economy's recovery and said the bank has "considerable options" to achieve its mandate by maintaining inflation within a target range.

On currency markets yesterday, the Canadian dollar closed at 93.80 cents US, up 0.08 of a cent. The loonie has dropped in recent days, but economists predict it could hit parity with the U.S. greenback in the next few months, mainly because of U.S. dollar weakness.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Astral Media reports $273-million loss

RADIO Astral Media lost $273.6 million in the fourth quarter as Canada's largest radio company took a large impairment charge on its radio licences that wiped out operating profits.

The $4.87 per share net loss for the period ended Aug. 31 compared to a 68 cent profit a year earlier when the Montreal-based media firm with radio, television, outdoor advertising and interactive media businesses earned nearly $39 million.

Earnings before the net non-cash charge of $317.5 million increased seven per cent to $43.9 million, or 78 cents per share, from $40.8 million or 72 cents a year earlier.

Revenues for the quarter decreased five per cent to $219.4 million from $229.9 million. Sales were constrained by one less week of business in 2009.

The results beat expectations. Analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters had forecast 68 cents of adjusted earnings on $221 million of revenues.

Stock up

- On the Toronto Stock Exchange, Astral's shares closed at $32.60, up 42 cents in trading.

Astral Media chief executive Ian Greenberg said he was "delighted" by the company's response to the effects of the economic downturn which adversely affected advertising markets across the country.

For the year, the company lost $158 million, reversing a $178.7 million profit in 2008. Excluding the fourth-quarter charge, adjusted earnings from operations increased six per cent to $159.5 million.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Low demand keeps U.S. Steel in the red

LOSSES United States Steel Corp., which is mired in a legal battle with the Canadian government over the former Stelco, said yesterday it lost money for a third straight quarter as the global economic downturn continued to dampen demand for the metal.

But the company said its production and shipments rose significantly from the previous quarter, and that it expects a narrower loss in the October-December period as North American automakers order more steel for vehicles.

The company recently launched a court challenge to the constitutionality of the Investment Canada Act, a response to Ottawa's own allegations the company broke promises when it shut most of its Ontario operations this spring.

The Canadian government says U.S. Steel made commitments to maintain certain production and employment levels.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Ott suspended two games for hip check

The NHL suspended Dallas Stars forward Steve Ott for two games yesterday for a low hit on St. Louis Blues defenceman Carlo Colaiacovo. The incident occurred midway through the second period in the Stars' 4-1 victory last Saturday. No penalty was assessed on the play. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports

IOC address gender issues

The International Olympic Committee will convene a special conference of medical experts to draw up guidelines for dealing with "ambiguous" gender cases in the wake of the controversy surrounding South African runner Caster Semenya, left. The IOC did away with mandatory gender testing at the Olympics 10 years ago. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

TFC sacks head coach Cummins

SOCCER Toronto FC dismissed interim head coach Chris Cummins yesterday, just days after a disappointing season was capped with a 5-0 drubbing in New York.

Cummins' contract was not renewed. The MLS club said the search is already underway for a new head coach.

"We would have loved to have kept Chris on as an assistant coach, but he wants to be closer to his family," said director of soccer Mo Johnston. "We respect that, he's done a hell of a job.

"I think he's going to be a hell of a young coach one day."
Mo Johnston, TFC director of soccer

"I think he's going to be a hell of a young coach one day."

Cummins' coaching record was eight wins, nine losses and seven draws in 24 matches. He was hired as an assistant coach in May 2008, taking over as interim head coach last April when John Carver stepped down.

"I honoured my contract, I was given a contract to the end of the year and I nearly lost my wife because she kept telling me to come home," Cummins said.

The team hopes to have a new head coach in place by the start of pre-season in February.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Beeston an interim no longer

Search for Blue Jays' president ends as Paul Beeston accepts three-year term

It turns out Paul Beeston's return to the Toronto Blue Jays isn't that interim after all.

Beeston was appointed president and CEO of the club and Rogers Centre for a three-year term yesterday, accepting a job he repeatedly said he wasn't interested in.

Paul Beeston

Beeston took over from Paul Godfrey on an interim basis in October 2008 and his primary responsibility was to identify and hire his own successor.

While he sought someone willing to make a five-to-10-year commitment, team owner Rogers Communications Inc. repeatedly pressed him to take the job permanently.

He made up his mind to accept the term over the weekend.

"We got here from a very honest, straightforward and exhaustive search for somebody to be the CEO," Beeston said in an interview. "We interviewed a number of people. At the very end it was fair to say that Rogers kept on saying, 'Are you interested?' and I had to keep on saying 'No, I'm not interested.' ...

"We've got ourselves in position where we can have the fun of the challenge."

The three-year term appears to be the compromise, and adds another bit of stability to a franchise that desperately needs it.

"While we interviewed a number of highly qualified individuals for the position, Paul's unique set of qualities made him our clear first choice," Tony Viner, president and CEO of Rogers Media, the division in charge of the team, said in a statement. "While Paul was initially appointed on an interim basis, he approached the role with his usual high energy and conviction to set the club up for success — something he's now committed to do for the long term."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blast from the past

- Beeston was the first employee hired by the Blue Jays in May 1976 and saw the team through its glory years in the 1980s and '90s. He left to serve as chief operating officer in Major League Baseball's commissioner's office in 1997 and held that role until 2002.

JARED WICKERHAM/GETTY IMAGES

Members of the Philadelphia Phillies warm up during World Series workouts yesterday at Yankee Stadium. By a ratio of nearly 2-to-1, fans have picked the Yankees to beat the Phillies for the crown.

Yankees to win Series, A-Rod MVP: Poll

BASEBALL DH or no DH in the World Series? Just decide, darn it!

Baseball fans want a clear-cut answer on the designated hitter dilemma that pops up every October. Whether they'll stay awake to watch the games this week, nearly half say no.

Those were the findings of an Associated Press-Knowledge Networks poll released yesterday, with fans predicting the New York Yankees would win the championship and Alex Rodriguez would be voted MVP.

The poll found 38 per cent want no DH in the Series and 34 per cent favour full-time use. Only 28 per cent liked the current way — a DH in AL stadiums but not in NL parks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Other findings

- Eight per cent of respondents said they would only buy a World Series ticket for less than $100 US.
- More than half said all games should be played at night.
- Given a list of six choices for their favourite World Series moment, the top pick was Boston ending the "Curse of the Bambino" and winning the championship in 2004.

New-look Raps host Cavs in opener

NBA PREVIEW

Cleveland at Toronto

CAVALIERS AT RAPTORS

BASKETBALL Nine new players and less than a month together — but ready or not, the regular season is upon the Toronto Raptors.

The new-look Raptors host the Cleveland Cavaliers tonight at the Air Canada Centre, eager to put last season's dismal 33-win campaign behind them.

Head coach Jay Triano has had the tough task of trying to make a polished, unified team out of a group of players that barely knew each other when they gathered for training camp four weeks ago.

He admits he would have loved a little more time.

"Of course, like three years. With this group? Three years would be great," Triano said, joking.

"We kind of cleaned house and we've got very quality people here. We've got guys buying into what we're trying to teach and do, and now it's a matter of gaining the experience with each other and the team."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

BOSTON Celtics forward Glen (Big Baby) Davis had surgery yesterday to repair his broken right thumb after fighting with a childhood friend while riding in an SUV less than two days before the season opener. Davis is expected to miss at least six weeks, though the Celtics said he also could be suspended for his behaviour.

LOS ANGELES Clippers' rookie Blake Griffin will be off the court for six weeks to rest his knee after injuring it in a pre-season game last Friday. He isn't likely to resume basketball activities until mid-November.

SOCCER Barcelona forward Lionel Messi has won an award as the best player in last season's Spanish league. The Argentine international was also awarded a prize as the league's best forward in a ceremony in Madrid late Monday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Cubs sale finalized
The $845-million US sale of the Chicago Cubs and Wrigley Field to Joe Ricketts, the founder of TD Ameritrade, is complete. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spooky stretches of Toronto's schedule

TheHockeyNews

Adam Proteau

thehockeynews.com

LORI SHEPLER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jonas Gustavsson and a win over the Ducks may have lifted the spirits of the Buds and their fans, but tough times still lay ahead.

With the Maple Leafs finally getting into the win column after their 6-3 spanking of Anaheim Monday, it appears Toronto's Hockey Horror Picture Show won't be airing all the way up to Halloween after all.

However, that's not to say there won't be at least a few more frightening nights ahead for the Leafs. So let's prepare you by identifying some potentially spooky stretches of Toronto's remaining schedule.

Friday, Nov. 13 through Tuesday, Nov. 17 — Wouldn't you know it — a famously unlucky day is the beginning of a tough three-games-in-five-nights stretch for the Leafs.

They start with the burgeoning Hawks in Chicago on the 13th, fly to Toronto to take on the impressive Calgary Flames the next night, then zip up Highway 401 to battle a division rival and very competitive Senators squad. Oh, and their next two games are against the Hurricanes in Carolina and the Capitals in Toronto.

(If you read the previous three sentences using the voice of Vincent Price, you might not be able to sleep tonight. Just so you know.)

Wednesday, Jan. 8 through Thursday, Jan. 21 — The aforementioned three-games-in-five-nights may sound like paradise to the Leafs once they're done playing eight times in 14 nights at the start of 2010.

Five of those eight games are on the road for the Leafs. They'll face Ryan Miller in Buffalo (on the eighth), Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby (in Toronto on the ninth), Philadelphia's Chris Pronger (in Toronto on the 14th), Alex Ovechkin in Washington (on the 15th), Ilya Kovalchuk in Atlanta (on the 19th), and Vinny Lecavalier in Tampa Bay (on the 21st).

By that point, Lightning owner Oren Koules may offer to buy what remains of the Leafs and use it as background gore for the next instalment of his Saw horror movie franchise.

Tuesday, March 2 through Tuesday, March 16 — Fourteen days. Nine games. Hurricanes, Bruins, Senators, Flyers, Bruins (again), Lightning, Oilers, Islanders, and Senators (again).

Somebody cue Joe Flaherty's famous Count Floyd character from SCTV. If the Leafs still have playoff hopes by then, this stretch may be their final resting place.

The Hockey News
thn.com

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NAME	LOCATION	GP	G	A	PTS
1. Patrick Reed	AB, CA	119	71	74	145
2. Stephanie Warren	NS, CA	119	68	74	142
3. Danny Chan	ON, CA	116	61	78	139
4. Jay Mitchell	ON, CA	117	66	72	138
4. Lorne Willmott	ON, CA	116	65	73	138
4. Neil Mann	ON, CA	120	67	71	138
7. Christian Gagnon	NB, CA	116	62	75	137
7. Derrick Yee		120	66	71	137
7. Kyle Turk	NS, CA	118	65	72	137
10. Paula Almeida-Stille		120	62	74	136
10. Stephen Stille	ON, CA	120	62	74	136
10. Terry Bobryk	AB, CA	120	55	81	136
13. Douglas Skanderup	AB, CA	119	68	67	135
13. Jonathon Gremsperger	BC, CA	118	64	71	135
13. Rick Kit	ON, CA	117	61	74	135

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Working harness key for guide dog's state of mind

Guide dogs differentiate between work and play through the presence of their working harness. When the harness is on, they must either be guiding their handlers or lying quietly as the owners attend to other tasks. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Guide dog do's and don'ts

Some basic rules to bear in mind when interacting with a dog that's providing assistance to a blind person: It is important not to touch or talk to a guide dog when its harness is on. Do not feed a guide dog under any circumstances. Leash corrections are a common training tool and are crucial to maintaining discipline. If you operate a restaurant, store or other business, remember that it is against the law to deny a guide dog access to your premises. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Schools for guide dogs struggling

Canadian schools that train guide dogs for the blind are feeling the effects of the global recession — a downturn experts fear could end up scuttling precious growth in a charitable industry that has only recently gained traction north of the border.

Canada's guide-dog schools are unlike their more established, better-known cousins in the U.S., where a higher profile and more solid financial footing allows them to raise more money and match more dog teams in one year than all four of the internationally accredited Canadian schools combined.

Like most of their North American counterparts, Canadian schools fund their costly programs exclusively through charitable donations, which have declined in recent months — especially in the corporate category as businesses re-evaluate their spending priorities.

While donations from loyal individuals remain strong, top officials at Canadian guide dog schools fear the lag could slow their momentum, which had been growing prior to the economic downturn.

"There are schools that are struggling now, the smaller schools particularly," said Sandy Turney, director of Guide Dogs Canada in Oakville, Ont.

"We have different sources of funds, but it's a tough go for people … I think in Canada we really were on a good growth path. It's just whether we can keep it up across the country."

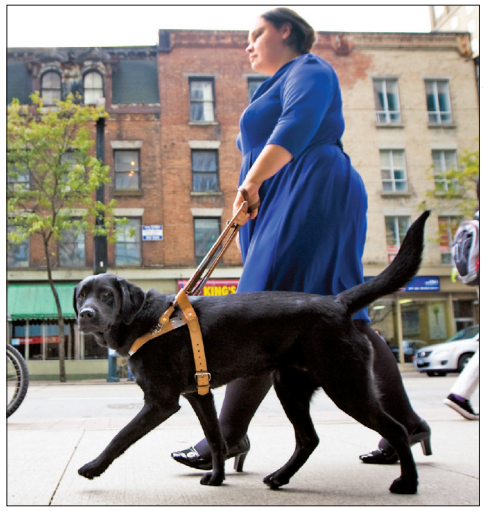
Canada has four organizations, including Guide Dogs Canada, that have since won accreditation from the International Guide Dog Federation and have similar credentials to schools that have been established for decades.

Newer schools faced the dual challenge of building a client base and attracting donations for their services, which are expensive.

The philosophy is to ensure cost doesn't prevent blind people from getting a guide dog, which is why the schools provide their services free of charge or for a nominal fee — the cost of a guide dog starts at $20,000. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Slow to adapt

- Canada was a latecomer to the international guide dog movement, which started in the 1920s. Canada's first school dedicated to the training of dogs for the blind did not open its doors until 1981.



NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Michelle McQuigge walks with her two-year-old Labrador Retriever guide dog named Reva. See metronews.ca/work for more coverage.

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Be careful when working for a competitor

WorkplaceLaw

Daniel Lublin

Metronews.ca/workplacelaw

Nothing infuriates a company more than news of an ex-employee soliciting away its most prized assets: The clients. But clients, much like those employees, are not sedentary. Seldom are they attracted to one company or another exclusively by virtue of the services they are offered. Rather, their loyalty often lies with the relationships that are built and the key employees who have built them.

When Stephanie Keeling first started work with the Travel Company Ltd. in Lethbridge, Alta., she was its most inexperienced travel agent. However, she soon became the company's most senior employee.

Concerned that should Keeling ever leave, she would take her clients with her, and acting on the advice of its lawyer, the Travel Company drew up an employment contract for Keeling providing that upon her departure, she would not compete with the company for an eight-month period, within a 100-mile radius of Lethbridge.

Keeling signed it because she believed she would lose her job if she didn't agree to its terms. Critically, the Travel Company did not advise Keeling that she was free to refuse the contract or encourage her to seek legal advice.

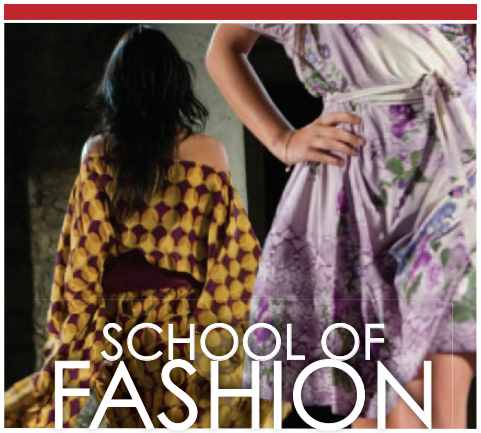
Keeling was later dismissed. Within three days she had landed a job at a competing travel agency in Lethbridge. The Travel Company sued both Keeling and her new company, relying on the contact.

However, an Alberta court ruled that it was not an enforceable agreement. The court was particularly troubled by the manner in which the contract was introduced and the language of the restrictions that would have effectively prevented Keeling from working in the industry for an eight-month period of time.

Although Keeling signed the agreement, the Court found that the Travel Company's failure to encourage her to seek legal advice and the implication that she would lose her job if she did not sign were enough to strike the contract down.

READ THE WHOLE ARTICLE AT METRONEWS.CA/WORKPLACELAW

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer with Whitten & Lublin LLP. Reach him at dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.



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York tops EMBA rankings
York University's Kellogg-Schulich Executive MBA program placed first among Canadian business programs in recent rankings by the Financial Times of London. The program placed 23rd worldwide. METRO NEWS SERVICES

In a 9-to-5 world, is there support for a '9-to-5 bra'?

Dragons' Den

Watch tonight's episode of Dragons' Den to find out if Andrea Clair's "9-to5 bra" wins an investment.

Is it wrong to look sexy at work? This is a HOT topic of discussion on tonight's episode of Dragons' Den!

The subject comes up thanks to a pitch by Andrea Clair, who has invented a piece of lingerie she calls the "9-to-5 Bra." It's designed to cover a woman's breasts so that no cleavage is visible, no matter how well-endowed that woman may be. Clair wants the five Canadian multi-millionaires known as the Dragons to invest in her company — and tells them there are lots of buyers for her bra: Women who want to look truly professional.

She's likely right that if your clothing is too provocative (or even flashy), it makes it more difficult for colleagues to focus on how well you're doing your job. And that could hinder your chances for advancement. We all want to look good, but maybe not that good.

What is suitable attire for the workplace these days? It naturally differs from industry to industry, and it depends whether you are interacting with customers. For example, people in manufacturing can dress down in a way that those in banking cannot. Those in artistic professions can get away with more outrageous looks.

Of course, a few decades ago, people dressed much more formally — all the time. But ever since the '60s, there's been a steady 'casualization' of both men and women's attire.

The Kitchener-Waterloo Record newspaper fought a grievance a while back, after trying to stop the free-fall of workers' wardrobes. It banned employees from wearing flip-flops, blue jeans, Birkenstocks — or provocative clothing. The judge ruled that the paper didn't prove that this clothing would negatively affect the workers' ability to do their jobs, especially since reporters did wear appropriate clothing to special events.

The bigger issue to my mind, is that how you dress shows how you view yourself. If you've decided you're a sex-bomb, that's great if you're aiming for a job at Hooters or Chippendale's, but it may not lead to promotion in other workplaces.

On the first season of Dragons' Den, a woman wearing a skimpy bikini tried to get investment to franchise her "Bikini Weinie" hot dog stands. Our female dragon that year, Jennifer Wood, gave her heck, saying she should have dressed professionally, and brought a model to illustrate the business concept.

You'll see a variety of outfits on tonight's episode. Does the 9-to-5 bra attract an investment? Do the Dragons agree this is a critical issue?

You'll have to watch to find out.

Dianne Buckner is the host of Dragons' Den. Tonight's episode airs at 8 p.m. on CBC. Follow Dianne on Twitter @DianneBuckner.

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Ahoy, matey

The Cayman Islands are hosting their 32nd annual Pirates Week Festival, Nov. 12-22, a festival that includes a mock pirate invasion of Grand Cayman's George Town Harbor. See piratesweekfestival.com or caymanislands.ky. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travel

Minivans are tastier: Yosemite bears

The black bears who call California's Yosemite National Park home have developed a taste for minivans, according to a study in the Journal of Mammology. Minivans represented 29 per cent of the 908 vehicles torn into by bears between 2001 and 2007, even though they made up just seven per cent of the cars visiting the park. The research notes that minivans are often driven by families with children who leave behind a trail of spilled juice boxes, Cheerios and snack-filled coolers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Surrounded by colonial charm

Oaxaca's boutique hotels capture the city's historical ambience

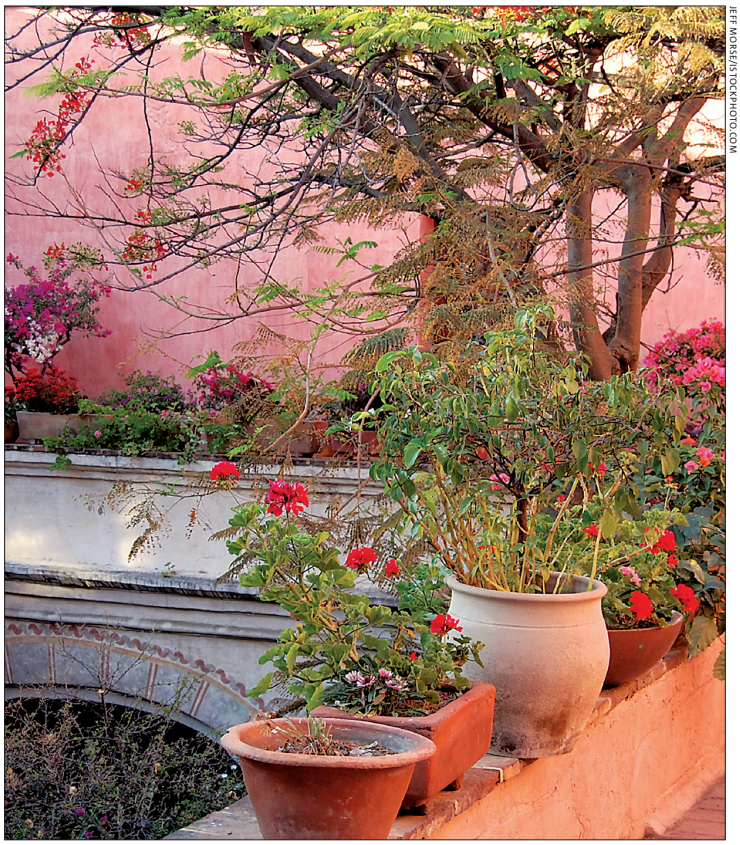
DAWNA L. ROBERTSON
for Metro Canada

Lauded as one of the best preserved and most captivating of Mexico's storied colonial towns, Oaxaca City melds the spiritual tapestry of yesterday with the artistic life of today into an atmosphere that's pure magic.

It's flamboyant blend of native Indian and provincial architecture is rooted in centuries' worth of local history. The Mixtecs and Zapotecs once constructed great centres in this same region — archaeological zones that are today considered among Mexico's most fascinating.

Later on, Conquistador Hernán Cortés chose the Valley of Oaxaca when offered a reward from the bounty of land he seized for Emperor Charles V,

But the historical charm doesn't end with the city's churches and museums: A collection of charming haciendas and mansions has been converted into intimate boutique hotels that preserve the past.



JEFF MORSE/ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

A vibrant courtyard of the Camino Real hotel in Oaxaca City, Mexico.

Camino Real Oaxaca

Among Oaxaca's most revered monuments is the former 16th century convent of Santa Catalina, a colonial structure that sparkles today as the AAA four-diamond Camino Real Oaxaca.

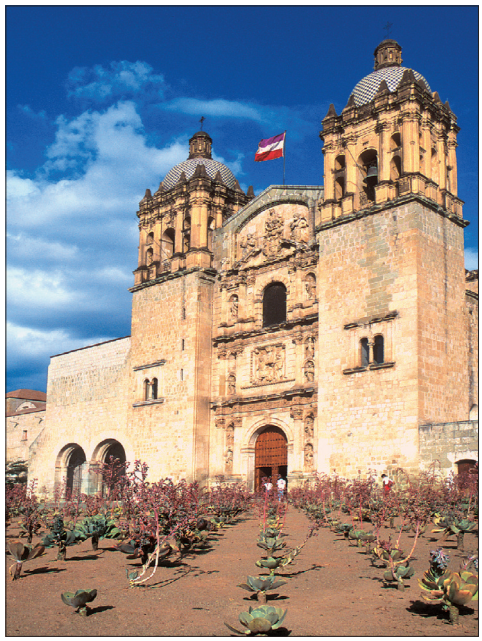
Meticulously restored to retain its grace, the hotel features romantic Spanish Baroque architecture and authentic colonial touches. There are sprawling tiled corridors with fading original frescoes, sun-splashed courtyards, jasmine-scented patios and vibrant gardens.

All 91 guest rooms are decorated with traditional high-beamed ceilings, stucco walls, hand-loomed bedspreads and wooden furnishings. Wooden beams support exposed terracotta ceiling tiles, and original floor tiles have been retained where possible.

All rooms accommodate with air conditioning, fan, cable television, alarm clock, telephone with data port for Internet connection, fluffy pillows and oversized cushions. Guests opting for the Camino Real Club revel in larger rooms fitted with extras like a welcome fruit basket and lavish buffet breakfast.

For a refreshing on-property escape, guests gravitate to the relaxing Las Bugambilias and lively Las Novicias bars nestled amid the building's classical facades. And for dining, El Refectorio presents Oaxacan and classic continental specialties in four distinctive areas — one that's framed by a wall of earthenware pots discovered during restoration.

Rates: Double occupancy rates are from $268 to 428 US nightly.
Online: caminoreal.com



CARLOS SANCHEZ

The church of Santo Domingo in Oaxaca.

Casa Oaxaca

Through a delicate remodeling of the 18th century colonial home, this five-star beauty emerged with a designer label earning it accolades for its minimalist style.

With a bright white Mediterranean design, Casa Oaxaca is known as the city's "art hotel" for the paintings and craftworks adorning each of its eight guest rooms — including six luxe quarters clustered around the main patio. Generous in size and uncommon in tone, each offers air conditioning, telephone and cable television. Guests can sip beverages on the roof terrace, lounge on quiet patios or bask in a heavenly temazcal steam bath.

Perhaps most prolific is Casa Oaxaca el Restaurante, a high-end eatery that's arguably one of the city's finest. With fresh Oaxacan produce and Pacific catches, Chef Alejandro Ruiz prepares such creative gourmet specialties as squash blossoms stuffed with fresh cheese and honey, or pork with mancha manteles mole.

Hard-core foodies will relish the Chef's Route of Flavors, an Oaxacan market immersion bombarding the senses with multicolored vegetables, seductive chocolates, fragrant spices and mouthwatering moles.

Rates: A welcome cocktail, Internet access, bathrobes, daily continental breakfast and indoor parking are included in nightly rates from $164 – 335 US.
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Skate at the Falls
A new public skating rink will open next month "a stone's throw from the brink of the Horseshoe Falls," say organizers of the Niagara Falls Winter Festival of Lights. The outdoor Rink at the Brink will be located across from the newly renovated Table Rock Centre. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Enjoying Kauai's laidback lifestyle

Hawaiian island is tops for a peaceful getaway

GREG ST. MARTIN
Metro World News

GREG ST. MARTIN/METRO WORLD NEWS

Kauai's Na Pali Coast is a 15-mile-long stretch of coastline that's inaccessible by car, though boats offer tours lasting several hours.

Of all Hawaii's different islands, Kauai is where vacationers who are after a peaceful getaway most often land.

The island features a laidback spirit, a frequently undeveloped landscape and abundant breathtaking views from the Kilauea Lighthouse on the northern coast to a neat "tree tunnel" on the southern side planted more than 150 years ago.

It also boasts great hiking in Koke'e State Park; Poipu Beach was named one of the world's best by The Travel Channel; and it has more rivers and waterfalls than all the other Hawaiian islands. It also features Mount Waiaeale – what is considered the wettest spot in the world.

Even though 82 per cent of the island is inaccessible by car, there are plenty of ways to see its gorgeous coastline, mountains and lush forests.

The best way to enjoy Kauai is to aim for a harmonious balance between relaxation and adventure. The island offers some rich spectacles that can be found nowhere else on Earth. Take a drive up the coastline, take a tour of the island's interior, or snorkel to discover the sea turtles (but no touching).

But the island is also the perfect place to kick back on the beach and spend hours just staring out on the Pacific. Take advantage of the fact that you're more than 2,400 miles away from the next closest state (California) and enjoy the rich smell of the ocean and peaceful sounds of crashing waves.

Na Pali Coast

Truly a sight to behold, this 15-mile coastline of amazing cliffs is inaccessible by car, but boats offer several-hour tours. From the water, visitors can see it all — majestic sea cliffs, waterfalls and even spinner dolphins. It's also known as one of the fastest-eroding cliff lines on the planet.

Waimea Canyon

The magnificent canyon (10 miles long by one mile wide) is visible from tourist lookouts, where you can take panoramic photos, and hiking trails that provide a more intimate view. The best time to go is by noon, before the fog rolls in. It's known as The Grand Canyon of the Pacific.

The wildlife

Kauai's sea creatures can be found simply by tossing on some snorkeling equipment or by signing up for a scuba adventure. The island's lush interior and jungle terrain can be discovered in many ways. Visitors can take tours by kayak, zipline, ATV and helicopter. Movie tour buses point out spots where movies such as Jurassic Park, South Pacific and Raiders of the Lost Ark were filmed.

Poipu Beach was named one of the world's best by The Travel Channel.

Kauai

- Best restaurant — Not only does The Beach House Restaurant offer sensational food, it's said to be the best eatery on the island to watch the sunset – so make sure you book a table on the outer part of the seating area
- Local dish — It's almost impossible to go wrong with a seafood dish in Kauai, but ahi (yellow fin tuna) and ono (wahoo) are two that tend to be popular.
- When to go — Let's put it this way: There's no bad time to visit. But some things to keep in mind are that hurricane season runs from June to November, when the rainy season is said to begin. Some say the best weather can be found in April/May or September/October. METRO WORLD NEWS

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BCAA to close offices

The B.C. Automobile Association says it's closing all of its store-front travel offices because most people are making their travel arrangements online. The offices will close on Jan. 15, putting 157 people out of work. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sudden death in the Arizona desert

Tombstone's Wild West revival vibe is cheesy but entertaining

Wyatt Earp's boots crunched on the baked desert earth as he, Marshal Virgil Earp, Morgan Earp and Doc Holliday strode past Bauer's butcher shop and the Pagago cash store toward the O.K. Corral and their date with destiny.

The chill wind that Oct. 26, 1881, afternoon blew open Holliday's long grey coat, revealing the shotgun he hid within.

Weapons ready, they were determined to disarm those varmint Clantons and McLaurys. What followed was a virtual toe-to-toe shootout that came to epitomize and romanticize the violent mythos of the Old West.

JUSTIN GUARIGLIA/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC/GETTY IMAGES

Tourists ride in a stagecoach on Allen Street in Tombstone, Ariz.

Tombstone

- tombstoneweb.com
- tombstonebirdcage.com
- bignosekates.info

Visitors to Phoenix who want to take a day off from golfing should hop in the car and drive three hours southeast - past lonely mesas and stands of prickly saguaro cactus - to this endearingly kitschy re-creation of a Wild West town and the gunfight that made it famous.

"If there was anything Wyatt Earp could have eliminated in his life it would have been Tombstone because that was his downfall," says Bill Hunley, a lifelong Tombstone resident, who owns the town's historic Bird Cage Theatre.

"(After Tombstone) he lost one brother, the other brother was crippled the rest of his life, and the family kind of fell apart."

Tombstone's town jewel is the rebuilt, refurbished O.K Corral site, or more accurately, the alley behind the corral, which is where the gun battle actually occurred.

DEAN BENNETT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Left, graves at the Boothill Graveyard in Tombstone, Ariz. Right, mannequins depict the infamous O.K. corral shootout.

Walk in the noontime heat through the corral and museum and you see, behind a wrought-iron fence, eight mannequins with angry eyes and guns poised, four on four. Press a button and a voice on a loudspeaker recounts the battle.

When Wyatt Earp draws, his gun hand slowly rises and you can imagine the violence that saw 30 shots fired in 30 seconds.

After the smoke cleared, Frank and Tom McLaury and Billy Clanton were dead while the unarmed Ike Clanton ran away. On the Earp side, only Wyatt escaped without a scratch.

Inside the corral museum, listen to the velvety voice of Vincent Price narrate a half-hour show on the history of Tombstone, complete with visuals and a funky revolving diorama.

And twice a day, actors re-create the violent gunplay.

From the corral, visitors can walk down Allen Street and into history. Cowboys in dusty chaps invite you to other lunchtime gunfight re-creations: "Come for a burger and a murder!" Vintage replica newspapers from that dark day are available at the Tombstone Epitaph newspaper office.

Stop in at Big Nose Kate's Saloon — named for Doc Holliday's girlfriend and perhaps the town's first prostitute. The bar is vintage Old West: dark wood, long bar, with cowboy pictures and artifacts cramming every inch of the walls. The dominant motif: guns, naked women, and naked women with guns.

The Bird Cage is one of the few sites that hasn't been completely rebuilt. The town was devastated by two fires but survived and thrived, contributing to its nickname: "The Town Too Tough to Die."

"The Bird Cage was a brothel, a bordello, a gambling casino, a dance hall, a saloon and an opera house all rolled into one. That's where the mystique of the saloon started," said Hunley. Visitors can tour the Bird Cage museum, look up and see the curtained-off "cribs" above the casino, where prostitutes entertained clients.

Twenty-six people died violently in gun battles in the Bird Cage's heyday. They live on, says Hunley, on a spiritual plane — disembodied voices and apparitions — that has made the museum a favourite haunt for ghosthunters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Scannable book
A new travel book from Rough Guides called Earthbound book includes scannable barcodes — called QR codes — that link to digital content. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Celebrity adds on-board 'enrichment'

Celebrity Cruises is introducing a new program of enrichment seminars and activities on its ships called "Celebrity Life: Savor, discover, renew."

Starting in November, new culinary experiences, learning opportunities, fitness classes and spa treatments will be offered on eight Celebrity ships.

Some will be fee-based, like acupuncture and Botox treatments, a "boot camp" fitness class, and a "Chillates" class that is described as more laid-back than traditional Pilates workouts.

Other activities will be free, like scrapbooking workshops, stargazing parties and seminars on history, art, culture and architecture. Some of those seminars will be led by Smithsonian Journeys, the educational travel program of the Smithsonian Institution.

This file photo shows the Celebrity Cruises ship Constellation.

"Let's Dance" programs will offer free themed nights ranging from Latin music to the '60s. But unlike traditional choreographed shows, guests will be invited to interact in the productions by joining the ship's entertainers on the dance floor. Each cruise will also host dance classes and competitions.

The ships will also offer Rosetta Stone's well-known language instruction courses, with a free group session onboard led by Celebrity staff. Computer-based instruction is $24.95 per class, or $9.95 for two classes with a complimentary third class. An unlimited package is $99.95.

Interactive culinary programs will include "Mixology 101" workshops on cocktails, wine seminars, "Food as Art" programs with tours, contests and shipboard cooking shows.

"We want to cross the line from activities and events into experiences," said Celebrity Constellation cruise director Joshua Riffe. "Rather than sitting back and being entertained, with Celebrity Life you can discover."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cruise site names annual winners

CRUISE TRAVEL Royal Caribbean won the award for best family cruise line and Carnival won in the category of best for first-time cruisers in CruiseCritic.com's annual editors' picks awards. Royal Caribbean's Freedom Class of ships also won the awards for best cruises for kids and best for teens. Holland America won in the best for cabins and best for activities categories, while Carnival won best for nightlife.

Other honours included Princess winning best for weddings at sea, the Celebrity Solstice and Equinox sister ships winning for best new ship, Carnival winning for best main dining, Oceania for best specialty restaurants and Celebrity winning for best healthy dining.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

mbination of 30-second commercial skip function, 9-day programming guide and expandable recording capacity. Additional equipment required. (2) Based on independent survey conducted in April 2009 vs. Ontario's major cable provider. (3) Based on various Bell TV programming packages combined with Premium Movies, certain International programming, equipment rental and

Atlanta museum acquires Renoirs

DATELINE The High Museum of Art in Atlanta has acquired 300 new works, including the museum's first paintings by Pierre Auguste Renoir. The Atlanta museum's collection will now include Woman Arranging Her Hat and Still-Life with Apples, both painted by the impressionist around 1890. Both paintings are already on display. Other acquisitions not on view yet include a painting by folk artist William Hawkins, a woodcut self-portrait by modern artist Chuck Close and a sculpture by Rodin. The High has more than 11,000 works of art in its permanent collection, including an extensive exhibition of 19th- and 20th-century American art and a growing collection of African art. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spaceport to offer 'hardhat tours'

First look at New Mexico facility available this year

New Mexico spaceport officials will begin offering paid public tours of the construction site north of Las Cruces. The so-called "hard-hat tours" will begin in December.

The tours at Spaceport America will highlight New Mexico history in the Upham area, spanning from Spanish conquistadors and pioneer rocket research to the new commercial space industry.

Tour participants get a look at the construction site, including the runway and vertical launch facility.

Spaceport officials have been working with leading aerospace firms such as Virgin Galactic, Lockheed Martin, Moog-FTS, UP Aerospace, and Armadillo Aerospace to develop commercial spaceflight at the southern New Mexico site.

The 10,000-foot long runway is expected to be complete by next summer. A terminal hangar facility should be built by early 2011.

Tour details and reservation forms will be available on the Spaceport America Web site by mid-November at spaceportamerica.com.

Ticket prices have not yet been established.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RICHARD WOODSUM/SPACEPORT AMERICA

This Sept. 13 aerial photo shows the first steps in the construction of a runway for Spaceport America, the world's first purpose-built commercial spaceport, in the desert near Upham in southern New Mexico. Measuring 10,000 feet long by 200 feet wide, the runway is designed for day-to-day space tourism and payload launch operations like those anticipated for Virgin Galactic, the anchor tenant for Spaceport America.

El Museo del Barrio

Galleries at New York City's El Museo del Barrio have reopened after an 18-month renovation. El Museo del Barrio is the Museum Mile's only institution devoted to Latino art. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Accommodating history in Oaxaca

>> Continued from page 24

CARLOS SANCHEZ

A church and archeological site at Mitla, one of Oaxaca's regional treasures.

Hostal de La Noria

Standing majestically in the historic centre's heart just a few blocks from the zocalo, the well-appointed Hostal de La Noria blankets you within the relaxed, yet privileged ambience it once evoked as an elegant private mansion.

Casually refined and spacious, all 50 rooms have been individually fashioned as a tribute to Oaxaca's rich cultural heritage. Described as "comfortable colonial," the thoughtful design gathers all the amenities guests desire while maintaining a traditional feel.

Detailed craftsmanship prevails throughout, with stained-wood furnishings, hammered tin or wrought iron headboards and marble counter vanities. Most rooms are equipped with cable TV, telephone with data port, ceiling fan, coffee/tea maker, and private bath that pampers with oversized fluffy towels and toiletries.

Even public spaces retain the privacy and lustre of a bygone era. The gentle atmosphere invites you to shroud yourself in bliss on a fountained patio shaded by canvas parasols and surrounded by an aesthetic pier-and-arch arcade.

Or unwind on the roof top sun deck with cocktails at Los Chapulines before savoring sumptuous fare at Asuncion Restaurante.

Rates: Daily breakfast and wireless Internet access are included in nightly rates from $70 to 180 US single or $120 to 210 US double.

Online: hostaldelanoria.com

Casa Cid de León

For those who appreciate a retreat feeling familiar the instant you arrive, Casa Cid de León extends a welcome mat like no other. Owners Agustin and Lety dwelled here a decade before sharing its enchantment with others.

This is a deceptive gem that both surprises and satisfies. The building's small dimensions with pure lines defining its colonial facade seem to expand as you cross the wrought-iron threshold. And its quaintness echoes an era when hospitality was a way of life rather than an art form.

Four eclectic suites subtly blend green stone walls, terracotta floors and wood-beam ceilings with hand-embroidered linens, fresh flowers, overstuffed chairs, bronze chandeliers and rococo stucco angels. Amenities include air conditioning, satellite TV and whirlpool tubs.

A favorite is Bella Epoca, where everything comes in threes — a trio of rooms with three sets of French doors leading to three balconies. The bath is a dream with soft light fragmented by crystal lamps and brocade curtains framing the tub. Like most restored manses, the three-level hotel is elevator free. So you'll have to climb a few stairs to reach the rooftop terrace for breakfast at El Jardin del Carmelo.

Rates: From $200 to 230 US per night, rates include fresh flowers, juice and coffee in room, wireless Internet access and round-trip airport transfers.

Online: casaciddeleon.com

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Louisville hotel named Condé Nast fave

Wade Johnson has plopped down in plenty of hotels, but the business consultant ranks his stays at 21c Museum Hotel in downtown Louisville as a one-of-a-kind experience.

Turns out, that one-of-a-kind experience has a large following.

The 90-room boutique hotel — where contemporary art is an eye-catching theme — won the honour of top U.S. hotel in Conde Nast Traveler magazine's 2009 Readers' Choice Awards. It was quite a coup, since 21c is a relative newcomer and the winner is typically a well-known place in a big-city tourist destination. 21c was followed in the rankings by The Peninsula in Chicago and the Mandarin Oriental in Boston.

Johnson, a mergers and acquisitions consultant from Chicago, said there's a "different feel" at 21c, which opened in 2006 in a series of renovated 19th-century tobacco and bourbon warehouses.

Perhaps it's the 1.2-metre-tall plastic red penguin sculptures manning parts of the hotel. Or the contemporary art seemingly on display everywhere — from the lobby to hallways to elevators and public restrooms. There are paintings, photographs, video art and sculptures ranging from whimsical to provocative.

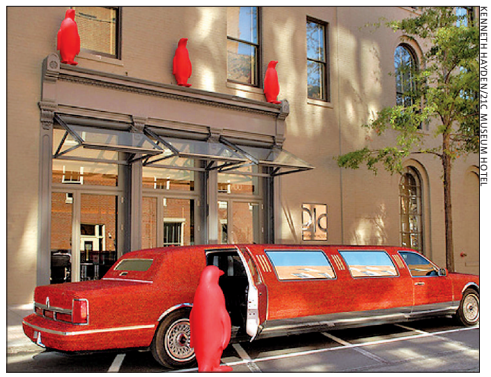
"I love staying here," Johnson said. "It's fun, it's quirky, it's unique."

Most of the artwork comes from the private collection of the hotel's husband-and-wife owners, Laura Lee Brown and Steve Wilson, and from their art foundation.

Ed Varela, in town from Texas on a business trip, had just checked in when he got his first look at a plastic penguin stationed near the front counter. "Oh gosh, that's different," he said.

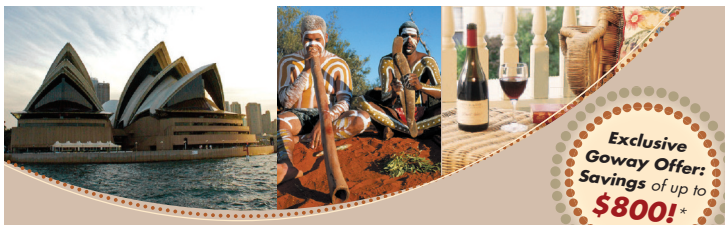
Varela planned to check out the art displayed in more than 800 square metres of exhibition space. 21c features rotating curated exhibitions and even has a full-time museum director.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



KENNETH HAYDEN/21C MUSEUM HOTEL

A Pip Mobile and some Red Penguins outside of the 21c Museum Hotel in Louisville, Ky.



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Life's take on Wonders of the World

There were seven wonders in the ancient world, and contests have been held to identify manmade and natural wonders of the modern world. Now a new book, Life Wonders of the World, offers another take on the concept, profiling 50 wonders in six categories. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What's new at North American ski destinations

National Geographic Adventure picks the top resorts for the 2009-2010 season

The November issue of National Geographic Adventure magazine is recommending 11 ski destinations across North America. They are:

- Snowmass in Colorado, described as an alternative to the "hustle and bustle of downtown Aspen."
- Sun Valley, Idaho, which the magazine says is launching its first gondola this winter for the ride 2,000 vertical feet (610 metres) up Bald Mountain.
- Park City Mountain Resort in Utah, where you can reach the High West Distillery and Saloon's bar and tapas restaurant on skis via the Quittin' Time run.
- Rossland, B.C., described as a "no-stoplights, no-Starbucks former mining town" with incredible backcountry.
- Northstar-at-Tahoe in California, with a new Ritz Carlton and a new gondola to complement the deep Sierra snows and tall ponderosa pines.
- Mount Bachelor in Oregon, where daily lift tickets this season will be priced $49, $59 or $69, depending on lift-serviced available terrain and weather factors such as visibility, wind, precipitation and temperature.
- Whistler Blackcomb in B.C., where only 10 per cent of the mountain will be closed to the public during the Olympics.
- Sugar Bowl in the Lake Tahoe-Truckee area, where a new Olympic sport, skicross, will be featured on a new course in a pre-Olympics show, Feb. 1-17. The sport involves four skiers at a time down a course with banked turns and jumps — think Moto Cross on skis.
- Jay Peak Resort in Vermont, which is opening a new luxury hotel this season, the Tram Haus Lodge.
- Cannon Mountain, in New Hampshire, which this season will provide shuttle transportation to Mittersill, an abandoned ski area that can now offer backcountry skiers access to ungroomed terrain.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Getting the most for your money

- Look for "fly-in, ski-out" deals that might include direct flights to local airports with transportation from the airport to the lodge, so you don't have to rent a car. Some resorts have free airport shuttles, and some airports offer buses to ski areas with inexpensive and convenient pick-up and drop-off locations.
- Look for freebies, especially if you're travelling with children. Many resorts offer some packages with options where kids ski, stay and/or eat for free.

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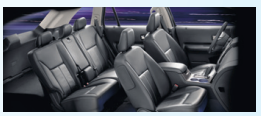

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Cars like trains
A new European Union project, made up of several partners including Volvo Cars, is being launched to develop and test technology for vehicles that can drive themselves in long "trains" on highways. **CANADIANDRIVER.COM**

Metro Drive

What's the colour?

General Motors is asking the general public to come up with a name for the colour of its pre-production Chevrolet Volt. You can enter — and eventually vote — at chevroletvoltage.com. The three top vote-getters win a trip to the L.A. Auto Show. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

LaCrosse holds allure

Buick aims to get young buyers behind the wheel

JIL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada

2010 Buick LaCrosse
Type: Four-door sedan
Price: from $32, 745
Engine: 3.0L V6/3.6L V6
HP: 255/280

Highlights
- Excellent handling
- Good blend of the traditional and the modern

Buick owners are among the oldest in the market, but GM plans to change that. The 2010 LaCrosse has what it takes, if younger shoppers get behind the wheel to see for themselves.

It's the all-new version of the Allure, which was always called LaCrosse in the U.S. (the Canadian name was changed because it's a naughty slang term in French). It's expensive to sell a car under two names, and GM should have called it LaCrosse all along. At least it's finally smartened up.

It's also smartened up about putting out the right stuff. Allure — which was made in Oshawa, but production has moved to Kansas — was an OK car. LaCrosse is a really good one.

A 3.0-litre V6 powers the base CX, which starts at $32,745, and the mid-range CXL, at $34,745. The CXL is also the only one that adds all-wheel-drive, at $38,245. The top-line CXS uses a 3.6-litre V6 and starts at $40,745.

At 255 horsepower, the 3.0 isn't as strong as the 280-horsepower 3.6, and you can feel a few shift points where the transmission is tuned more for fuel economy than for performance.

If your wallet can take it, though, the top-line CXS offers the greatest driving pleasure. You can load it as high as $50,340 when you throw in every available option, including navigation, rear-seat DVD with headrest-mounted screens, sunroof and rear seat side airbags. They're fine, but it's the $895 Touring Package that you really want. It adds 19-inch wheels, H-arm rear suspension (also used on the AWD model) for better stability, and an automatic suspension that adapts for road conditions.

A tester so equipped hugged the curves on a winding road, taking corners smoothly and soaking up bumps without feeling floaty.

LaCrosse is also built in Korea and China for those markets. Buick is a luxury brand in China and owners are often chauffeur-driven, so the back seat is exceptionally roomy and comfortable.

The interior blends traditional and modern; available technology features include side blind zone alert, adaptive headlights that turn with the wheels, and a head-up display that projects the vehicle speed onto the windshield.

There is some room for improvement. More soft-touch plastics would be nice, and the A-pillars are very wide and create a blind spot. My biggest complaint is with the shift lever, which pulls back too far, making it tough to use the manual shift mode.

The 2010 Buick Lacrosse is the all-new version of the Allure, which was always called LaCrosse in the U.S.; inside, the LaCrosse is well equipped and exceptionally comfortable.

For more reviews of the latest cars, visit: metronews.ca/autoreviews

The 2010 Acura TL.

Manual TL latest addition to Acura lineup

MODEL Acura has added a manual transmission model to the TL lineup for the 2010 model year.

Along with the luxurious TL and sporty TL SH-AWD, the 2010 TL lineup is the most diverse in the vehicle's historys.

The new TL SH-AWD Technology Package with a close-ratio six-speed manual transmission went on sale earlier this month.

"The new six-speed manual transmission, available on the TL SH-AWD Technology Package, allows the enthusiast driver to take full advantage of the performance of Acura's Super-Handling All-Wheel-Drive system," said Jerry Chenkin, executive vice president of Honda Canada Inc.

"Not only is the new six-speed manual transmission model the best performing Acura TL ever, it is among the top handling performers in its class."

For 2010, two distinct versions of Acura's performance luxury sedan will be offered: a luxurious 280-horsepower, front-wheel drive TL, and a powerful 305-horsepower TL paired with Acura's exclusive SH-AWD. FROM CARGUIDE

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New Moon, and new Volvo

Starting Nov.1, fans of Twilight hero Edward Cullen, played by Robert Pattinson, have the chance to win a shiny new Volvo XC60 like the one Edward drives in New Moon. Visit whatdrivesedward.com for details. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Dream cars at your fingertips

MARK ATKINSON
for Metro Canada

If you're 30 and under, and have even a small interest in playing driving video games, chances are you've heard of Forza Motorsport, Microsoft's major-league offering on its XBOX 360 console. For those not familiar, the Forza series has delivered a more serious product — like Sony's Gran Turismo series on the PlayStation — compared to the arcadey Mario Kart and Need for Speed offerings.

A screenshot from Turn 10's XBOX 360 game Forza Motorsport 3, in stores now.

The latest iteration — Forza Motorsport 3 — features over 400 cars and over 100 real and not-so-real tracks to race them on. All of the big-name manufacturers are here, not just exotics like Ferrari and Lamborghini.

However, developer Turn 10's proudest moment is that FM3 is the first game to feature the 1,000-hp $2 million Bugatti Veyron supercar.

"There are 900 data points per car that we used to ensure everything is accurate to the millimetre," said Turn 10's Korey Krauskopf. "The biggest thing was to create an accurate physics model that's evolved from the first game. This year we added tire deformation as a characteristic, and had to consult with the tire manufacturers, the car manufacturers, and even some race drivers, to make sure everything works properly." Cars suffer damage in FM3, and the game has now incorporated roll-overs.

The tracks are split about 50/50 in terms of recreations of real-life facilities — like Laguna Seca, Road America and the famed Nurburgring – and courses created out of thin air.

Seventeen-year-old David Ostella, a racecar driver competing in the Star Mazda series, said that the cars he'd sampled acted as accurately as a real car, and that the tracks were impressive too. "The final turn at Sebring [International Raceway] has a ton of bumps and dips, and that comes through in the game," he said.

However, Krauskopf was clear that their other goal was to make FM3 as fun and enjoyable to play for the first-timer as for the hardcore gamer. In addition to the usual ABS, traction and stability controls that can be turned on and off, there's a switchable racing line, a "rewind" button that allows you to go back in time in five-second chunks to before your crash, and a brake-assist mode that will automatically apply the brakes properly when entering a corner.

They've got game

- **Gran Turismo PSP (Sony PSP):** Sony's legendary auto "simulator" gets its first showing on the powerful handheld. With over drivable cars and 70 tracks, GT PSP will happily entertain you during those long winter evenings spent commuting on public transit.
- **Need For Speed: Shift (XBOX 360, PlayStation3, PC):** A 180-degree turnaround from the series' usual arcade-game feel, Need For Speed: Shift goes after the same crowd as Forza Motorsport and Gran Turismo. While 72 cars may not sound like a ton, they're each detailed so well, especially the in-cabin shots, that you'll never notice the difference.

Hands-free gadget guide

On Monday, Ontario became the latest Canadian province to ban the use of hand-held devices without a hands-free option while driving. To help you switch gears, Metro Drive has been featuring some in-car hands-free products throughout this month. Here's our final instalment:

BLUEANT VOICE CONTROLLED HEADSET

This V1 model lets users control most functions with their voice. Pushing one button activates the voice recognition technology and gives you control of all the functions, just by talking. Available at The Future Shop. $149.99.

MOTOROLA T215 IN-CAR SPEAKERPHONE

If ear pieces are not your thing, then this gadget's for you. Equipped with two-watt speakers, the speakerphone allows to talk and listen for up to 36 hours. Just clip to the a car visor and go. Pricing not available. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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DUI while riding La-Z-Boy
Dennis LeRoy Anderson was recently convicted of DUI after being caught steering a La-Z-Boy that was modded with lawn mower parts, a stereo and a cup holder. Anderson was arrested in the northern Minnesota town of Proctor after he crashed his La-Z-Boy into a parked car. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Little action at Tokyo auto show

The ongoing auto show in Tokyo has been notable on several fronts.

For one thing, unlike the North America shows, the Japanese show continues to feature a predominance of female "presenters" on the show stands. Is there a shortage of male models in Japan?

Someone should investigate. I'll even help acquire evidence; by using my digital camera to fully document how rampant is this "female presenter" phenomena.

This year's show was also notable for the absence of every major non-Japanese automaker. No Ford, No VW no Fiat, No Jaguar. Not even a representative from nearby Korea.

"Tokyo has been regulated to regional show status," says Mike Robinet, a native of Windsor, Ont., who is now the global analyst for CMS Forecasting, a Michigan-based firm who supplies auto industry forecasts to clients around the world, including many automakers.

Mike notes that historically, automakers would go anywhere the global media showed up. Nowadays, they only go to shows that represent markets where they can sell some vehicles.

Via a combination of strict import regulations, and other factors (both cultural and economic), very few imports are sold in Japan.

Notes Robinet: "The number of Chevys sold in Japan, is between zero and a small number."

In that part of the world the action is definitely in China, which has just supplanted the U.S. as the world's biggest auto market.

The action is definitely not in Japan, which is proving tough even for its homegrown automakers. Put that down to a sagging economy and demographics; the latter characterized by low birth rates, low immigration, and a mature population starting to downsize their vehicles.

ITSUO INOUYE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toyota Motor Corp. president Akio Toyoda introduces the Lexus LFA at the Tokyo Motor Show last week. Wow factors like the LFA were few and far between at the auto event this year.

According to Robinet, this means Japanese automakers will focus on export markets even more than they have in the past. But what's going to hurt them there is the yen. "As the yen continues to appreciate, they become less and less competitive."

The way to get around that is to build cars where you sell them. So expect to see more Japanese brand production in North America, particularly in Mexico.

The other thing to expect from Japanese makers is more focus on fun and emotional cars. With every one matching them on quality, they need another calling card.

Obviously there have been lots of fun and exciting cars that have originated from Japan, but also lots of instances where Japan played it safe, perhaps too safe.

We already saw some shift toward the enlightenment at this year's show, when Lexus unveiled its new halo car — the LFA — a $375,000 (US), V10, mid-engine, super car, that looks like a sexy transformer.

Like everyone else, the Japanese industry got hit in the stomach by the economic meltdown.

Robinet feels they may even have been the slowest of the global industries to adjust to new realties. Some of the smaller Japanese companies have particularly hard rows to hoe, in this current market. But don't mistake a lull, for anything else.

"I've always been taught never to count them out," said Robinet. So we won't either.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for over 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

BMW 3: Beautiful machine to drive

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
for Metro Canada

MODEL: 1999 to 2005 BMW 3-Series
VEHICLE TYPE: Premium sedan, coupe, wagon or convertible
APPROXIMATE USED PRICE RANGE: $7,000 to $30,000

HISTORY/DESCRIPTION: The fourth generation of BMW's iconic 3-Series was on sale from 1999 to 2005 in Canada. Fans, enthusiasts and BMW engineers refer to this body style as the "E46."

All Wheel Drive (AWD) was available on many 3-Series models, designated by an "xi" addition to the vehicle's name. This references BMW's automatic "X-Drive" AWD system, which amounts to a winter driving weapon for motorists who are active all year round.

Under the hood, shoppers will find a variety of inline six-cylinder engines. These range in displacement from 2.2 to 3.0 litres, and generate between 168 and 230 horsepower

The 2.5 litre engine (325i) is commonly touted as the best blend between power and mileage. The larger 3.0 litre powerplant (330i) is more muscular and ideal for the serious driving enthusiast.

Second Gear

WHAT OWNERS LIKE: 3-Series owners love the sportiness, status and refinement of their machines. The variety of body styles, decent fuel mileage and award-winning history are other factors of influence, as are safety ratings and brand loyalty.

WHAT OWNERS HATE: Owners commonly complain about limited storage compartments within the cabin, flimsy front-seat cupholders and limited headroom for taller occupants. Back seat space is reportedly tight for grown-ups, too. High maintenance costs and a wimpy factory stereo round up the gripes.

A 2005 BMW 3 series sedan.

COMMON ISSUES: Key in a 3-Series test drive is ensuring all interior accessories work as intended. This includes the climate control system, sunroof and all windows. When operating the windows, note that a clicking sound likely means the regulators will soon require replacement.

Mechanically, last-generation 3-Series looks fairly solid. Some complaints pop up about slipping automatic transmissions, though this should be fairly noticeable on a test drive.

If the transmission is slipping, kindly thank the seller and move to another vehicle.

Avoid models heavily modified with aftermarket parts.

THE VERDICT: The adage "if you wanna play, you gotta pay" is valid here. Strong resale values mean 3-Series isn't the cheapest machine to buy or maintain — though it's arguably the most beautiful to drive.

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BMW offers night vision

BMW packed the new 7-Series sedan with optional gadgets ranging from radar-assisted cruise control to blind spot detection. There's even a heads-up display. But the coolest feature is the new night-vision system that likens a twilight drive to a Special Forces recon mission. **WIRED.COM**

A Caravan to his beat

Toronto native Kiyoshi Nagata is the artistic director of Nagata Shachu, a world renowned Japanese drumming ensemble.

When Kiyoshi Nagata was in the market for a new car three years ago, he had a fairly unique prerequisite. He needed a vehicle that could accommodate seven drums, each one the size of a large wine barrel.

As the artistic director of Nagata Shachu, the Japanese drumming ensemble he founded a decade ago, the Toronto native needed a reliable car that was big enough to transport himself, his drums and his drummers to their various concerts and performances around the city, but one that wasn't a gas guzzler, like the Chevy Astro Cargo Van he had previously driven.

Nagata settled on a 2003 Dodge Caravan.

"It is just very practical," he says. "When I take out the two back seats, I can fit seven drums in there. And when I'm not driving my drums around, I'm driving my drummers around because there's seven of us."

Explaining the history behind Japanese drums, called Taiko, Nagata says, "It's a tradition that has existed in Japan for over 2,000 years. Originally the drums were used during times of prayer. It's been used in the battlefields of Japan in times of great wars. Village boundaries were also determined by how far away you could walk away from the drum in any direction and still hear it."

Drummer Kiyoshi Nagata drives a 2003 Dodge Caravan similar to this model.

When he's not touring with his group, Nagata teaches Taiko at the University of Toronto and at the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Nagata Shachu will be performing their thunderous drumbeats at the Al Green Theatre on Nov. 27, 28 and 29. Tickets can be purchased on line at uoftix.com.

Heather Buchan is a Toronto-based journalist who has worked at several magazines, including Hello! Canada, where she cut her teeth in the world of celebrities.

Vancouver's where EVs plug and play

It's hard to think of a better place than Vancouver if you want to establish a beachhead for electric cars in Canada.

With its self-styled green image, openness to new technology and increasingly congested streets, the city seems like an ideal place to test drive zero-emission electric vehicles (EVs) and the infrastructure they need to make them practical.

Word that Nissan-badged EVs will be arriving in 2011 is cementing its reputation.

The Nissan-Renault Alliance has signed a memorandum of understanding with Vancouver and BC Hydro to bring Nissan's LEAF EV into fleet use a year before it goes on sale worldwide.

Mark McDade, Nissan Canada's EV project manager, stresses this is not a test run for a pre-production prototype.

"These are not early trials for Nissan Canada," he says. "These are production-ready, ready-for-consumption vehicles."

Vancouver will be a testing ground for the Nissan LEAF, along with other Evs.

Vancouver already has a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle in its fleet — a Prius sporting a conversion module that allows for charging on the grid and increases its electrical capacity 10 times.

It also has an agreement with Nissan competitor Mitsubishi to test two of the Japanese automaker's i-MiEV models, scheduled to arrive later this year.

The LEAF will have a range of 160 kilometres of stop-and-go city driving. It can be recharged with normal 110-volt household current, 208-volt systems normally used for stoves, washers and dryers, and eventually 480-volt quick-chargers. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Life after trucks
With manufacturers such as Chevrolet, GMC and Sterling announcing that they are leaving the medium-duty truck market, customers are largely undecided about the brand they will now buy, according to a new survey by J.D. Power and Associates. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Quiet revolution under the hood

GM's Noise Cancellation doesn't hurt fuel economy

JIL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada

One of the primary considerations among car buyers these days is fuel consumption, and that generally means smaller engines. That can lead to another problem: people also want quiet cars, but four-cylinder engines can be noisy. General Motors has tackled the problem with its new Active Noise Cancellation, or ANC.

Standard on the 2010 four-cylinder Chevrolet Equinox and GMC Terrain, it uses technology similar to that of noise-cancelling headphones, sending out a sound wave to counteract engine noise.

"It calculates (engine) frequencies and there are two microphones in the headliner, one over the driver and the second in the rear seat," says Jim Vallance, noise & vibration development engineer. "It knows the wave form, what its phase is, and it inverts it and sends out a mirror image of the wave. They cancel each other out."

Engine speed is measured in revolutions per minute, or r.p.m., which is how fast the crankshaft is spinning. A lower r.p.m. means better fuel economy, but it's not always pleasant to hear.

"There's an 'eco' button that takes the r.p.m.s down to 1,125 from 1,350," Vallance says. "That's an area that's just nasty for noise and vibration. It sounds like a manual car trying to take off in fifth gear, and the boom level resulting from that was overwhelming. We couldn't put enough damper or any type of noise treatment on the vehicle beyond what we had that could solve the problem. We tried all the traditional things first, before we went to this."

Driving Force

GM's Active Noise Cancellation technology is available on the 2010 Chevy Equinox.

The sound waves come out of the front door stereo speakers and the rear subwoofer. The system has separate circuitry in the amplifier, so even if the stereo's off or the music's cranked, the ANC still works.

"It sends out a wave and then uses the microphones as feedback to see what happened when it did that," Vallance says.

"It happens very quickly, in less than three-tenths of a second. Very rarely do you sit at one r.p.m. when you're driving. You're constantly changing r.p.m., so the target frequency is constantly changing. It's always working, always keeping up with the r.p.m. and cancelling it out, no matter where you're sitting."

"ANC is transparent to the driver. You don't turn it on or off. It's something that allows us to get the fuel economy numbers, but the driver is still comfortable."
Jim Vallance of General Motors

Along with ANC, the Equinox also contains traditional sound-deadening technology, including laminated glass and absorbent material in the dash, making the vehicle exceptionally quiet. "ANC is transparent to the driver," Vallance says. "You don't turn it on or off. It's something that allows us to get the fuel economy numbers, but the driver is still comfortable."

Car Insurance Roadblock

Consumers concerned insurers don't want drivers with tickets or accidents

Worried Your Spotted Driving Record Means You've Got Nowhere To Turn For Car Insurance?

Don't be. While it's true that, all things being equal, your tickets and accidents make you a more expensive risk to insure than a similar car and driver with a clean driving record, that doesn't mean you should have trouble finding insurance – assuming you know where to look. Different insurance companies target different types of business and this is reflected in things like their claims service, marketing efforts, discounts, and most importantly for you, their rates.

Can Some Insurance Companies Simply Refuse to Insure Some Drivers?

No. Since insurance companies have to file their rules and rates with the Financial Services Commission of Ontario (FSCO) they can only refuse drivers if they fall outside of the rules sent to FSCO. But what they *can* do is market themselves and set their rates such that they are more competitive for consumers they wish to attract (and, yes, less competitive for consumers they don't wish to attract). The result is that rates charged by different insurance companies to insure the same driver, with the same car, for the same coverage, can vary by hundreds and even thousands of dollars. Take a look at the table below.

Am I Doomed To Pay A Bundle?

No. Sadly, this is a mistake many drivers make and it can be a costly one, especially if they don't bother to shop around for the lowest rate available. The key to finding the best rate, especially if you have tickets or accidents on your driving record, is to figure out which insurance company of the more than 30 in Ontario has the best rate for your particular situation. And with rates varying so wildly across companies, chances are you are not with the company that has the lowest rate for your profile right now.

This is where InsuranceHotline.com can help, by offering an independent, unbiased rate comparison from over 30 top insurance companies to find you the lowest rate for your profile and then connecting you with a licensed broker or agent who can provide the policy. It is fast, safe and completely FREE.

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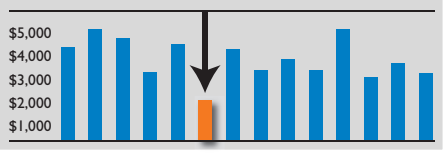

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TOYOTA grad program

Liz praises MJ movie as best she's ever seen

Elizabeth Taylor has high praise for the new movie about her late friend Michael Jackson. The 77-year-old actress said Michael Jackson's This Is It is "the single most brilliant piece of filmmaking" she has ever seen. USMAGAZINE.COM

Entertainment

She's back!

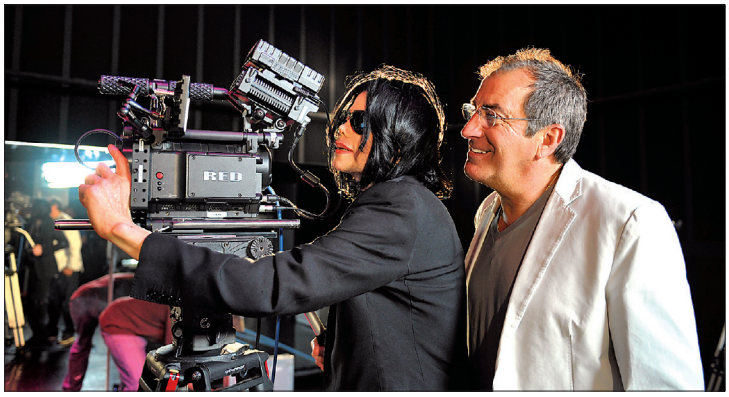
Amy Winehouse had quite a coming out party at the British Q Awards — showing the world her newly augmented breasts when they slipped out of her corset when she left the event. POPEATER.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Director given HIStoric task

IAN GORMELY
For Metro Canada

The creative legacy of Michael Jackson may lie in the hands of Kenny Ortega, but looking at him you'd never know it. Sitting in a Toronto hotel room, the director and choreographer appears warm and relaxed despite the insanely high expectations that surround the release of This Is It.



GETTY IMAGES

Director/choreographer Kenny Ortega, right, is pictured with Michael Jackson. Ortega was given the unenviable task of putting together the film This Is It.

Following the King of Pop's sudden death in June, Ortega, tapped to choreograph Jackson's London comeback shows, was handed the unenviable task of assembling a feature length film out of the rough footage shot during the rehearsals.

"I didn't want to do it. I didn't have a chance to sort of catch my breath or gain any distance or objectivity over what had happened," he says. "It wasn't my idea and in fact I said no."

Despite his reservations, Ortega was a natural choice to helm the project. He previously choreographed Jackson's Dangerous and HIStory tours in the '90s and also had a strong film background, choreographing films like Dirty Dancing and directing the incredibly successful High School Musical trilogy. He did agree to take a look at the footage and weigh in as to whether he felt there was enough usable material for a film.

"I realized it was my responsibility," he says.

"How could I turn it over to somebody else? It was our creation. We were doing this together."

Ortega says no changes were made to the original footage.

"We didn't add anything to it," he says. "It's the honest footage that existed from the moment that Michael made the announcement in London to the day that Michael died."

From the preview footage, it's clear the shows were a collaborative process between Jackson and his choreographer; Ortega can be seen standing on stage directing Jackson and backup dancers or heard off-screen discussing tweaks with the star.

The film will either confirm Jackson as the creative genius many claimed he was or expose him as the washed up nut-job that the tabloid media has framed him as for the past decade and a half.

"(This is) the story that the fans needed to see," says Ortega. "The fans will really get a sense of the material Michael was planning for the show."

• This is it opens in theatres today. Read tomorrow's edition of Metro for a review of the film.

Toronto screentimes

• **DOWNTOWN:** Scotiabank Theatre Wed-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Wed-Thu 1-4-7-10; Market Square Wed-Thu 1-4-6:45-9:15; Yonge-Eglinton Centre Wed-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40

• **WEST END:** Queensway Wed-Thu 1-1:30-4-4:30-7-7:30-10-10:30; Woodbine Centre Wed-Thu 1-4-7-9:35

• **EAST END:** Beach Cinemas Wed-Thu 7-10

• **NORTH YORK:** Empress Walk Wed-Thu 1:20-1:50-4:30-4:50-7:10-7:40-9:50-10:30; SilverCity Yorkdale Wed-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40; Silvercity Fairview Wed-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40

• **SCARBOROUGH:** Coliseum Scarborough Wed-Thu 4-4:50-7-7:45-10-10:30; 401 & Morningside Wed-Thu 4-7-9:50

• **PEEL REGION:** Coliseum Wed-Thu 1-1:30-4-4:30-7-7:30-10-10:25; Courtney Park 16 Wed 11-12-1-1:45-2:30-3:45-4:30-5:15-6:30-7:15-8-9:15-10-10:45 Thu 1-1:45-2:30-3:45-4:30-5:15-6:30-7:15-8-9:15-10-10:45; SilverCity Brampton Wed-Thu 4-4:30-7-7:30-10-10:30

• **NORTH:** 5 Drive-In Wed-Thu 7:50; Aurora Cinemas Wed-Thu 6:40-9:40; Elgin Mills 10 Wed-Thu 6-8:45; First Markham Place Wed-Thu 6:40-9:40; Promenade Mall Wed-Thu 1:10-4:10-6:50-9:20; SilverCity Newmarket Wed-Thu 4-4:30-7-7:30-10-10:30

• **HALTON:** Galaxy Cinemas Milton Wed-Thu 6:40-9:40; SilverCity Burlington 8 Wed-Thu 7-10; SilverCity Oakville Wed-Thu 7-10:10 No Passes Wed-Thu 6:30-9:10;

• **DURHAM:** Ajax Wed-Thu 7-10; Pickering 8 Wed-Thu 5-8; Whitby 24 Wed-Thu 11:30-11:40-12-1:45-2:15-2:45-4:30-5-5:30-7:15-7:45-8:15-10-10:30-11

• *Times are subject to change. Complete listings are also available at metronews.ca/movies.*

Actor shows Flash of genius

'Lost' star takes on mysterious role in new hit ABC series

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

As ABC's new hit series FlashForward has unfolded its mystery, drawing in viewers since its September premiere, the folks behind the show have kept one of their highest-profile cast members a not-so-secret secret.

But this week that all changes, as Dominic Monaghan, previously of the Lord of the Rings films and ABC's other puzzling hit, Lost, finally comes out of the shadows. Metro spoke with Monaghan about taking on another series.

GETTY IMAGES

Dominic Monaghan, who had roles in Lord of the Rings and Lost, portrays Simon, a scientific wunderkind, in ABC's FlashForward.

Q What can you say about your character, Simon?

A He graduated from university when he was 14, got a PhD when he was 15. He's one of the smartest science-based brains in the Western world. Because of that, Simon is completely ostracized from society. He does not know how to interact with human beings. He has no tact. If you looked up "narcissistic" in the dictionary, there would probably be a picture of Simon.

Q And Simon knows something about the mysterious flash-forwards?

A He has information about the flash-forwards, which he's willing to help the FBI out with, but he's not going to do it unless he gets what he wants. So there's some kind of a golden handshake thing going on.

Q Is it true the producers wanted you for another role?

A They were originally kind of interested in me playing one of the American parts. And I called my agent back and just said, you know what? At this point in my life, I don't feel hugely American. I don't feel entrenched in that idea of Lucky Strikes and hot dogs and Yankees. I don't drive a Buick. At some point in my life I would like to play an American, but I'm not sure if this is the time.

Q So they worked with you on developing your character?

A They initially said, What do you want to do? And I said I need to play a character that's different from the last character that I played that a lot of people knew, which was Charlie on Lost. I want to play someone that's proactive as opposed to reactive. I want to play someone that's a man as opposed to a boy becoming a man. Someone that's confident, someone that's self-assured.

Q Are there any other ways Charlie and Simon are different?

A I don't think Simon can sing. Although I'm not sure if Charlie could either, actually.

Q With the attention the show has been getting, does it remind you of being on Lost?

A It's a mystery-based show, so because of that there's a lot of questions. It's not like, okay, here's a hospital drama, and tell us about the characters. It's a very grand piece of work. It's ambitious. And I think Lost was ambitious as well.

Q What about Simon's own flash-forward?

A We're not there yet. That happens in Episode 6 or 7, I think. But yeah, it's definitely interesting.

The smell of the Hills

Heidi Montag is launching her own perfume. The Hills star — whose 2008 clothing line Heidiwood was deemed a flop — is collaborating with the Home Shopping Network to create a "feminine fragrance." FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

A strike at the 'starsuckers'

Filmmaker takes aim at British tabloid industry in new doc

What do Amy Winehouse's flaming beehive and Guy Ritchie's self-inflicted black eye have in common?

Both stories appeared in the pages of Britain's tabloid press. Neither is true.

The two incidents were fake showbiz news tips phoned into newspapers by the makers of the new documentary Starsuckers, to see whether they would be used without fact-checking. The fact that they were forms part of the movie's argument that the culture of celebrity has undermined journalistic standards and warped society's values.

"I didn't realize quite how much of our news is public relations, or lies, or on the basis of criminal acts," said the film's 33-year-old director, Chris Atkins.

Starsuckers, which premieres today at the London Film Festival, takes aim at Britain's fiercely competitive tabloid press, but its real target is much broader. Atkins believes that society's obsession with fame — gaining it and being near it — has distorted everything from the way news is reported to our children's aspirations.

The film opens with the statement that "everybody is naturally and powerfully attracted to fame," and tries to show how big companies in entertainment, media and PR use that desire to create a world full of insatiable consumers.

Through a series of stunts reminiscent of Michael Moore's movie polemics, Atkins aims to show how dignity, truth and even the law go out the window in the pursuit of celebrity.

KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chris Atkins, director of the documentary Starsuckers is seen during an interview in his office in London on Friday.

Atkins is particularly scornful of reality television — the way such shows distort reality and stretch the limits of what people will do to be on TV.

Atkins set up a booth in an English shopping mall purporting to be casting for children's reality TV shows. The filmmakers recorded as parents happily signed waivers for their children to appear on shows with titles like "Baby Boozers" and "Take Your Daughter to the Slaughterhouse" — for which he filmed children cheerfully trying to decapitate rubber chickens.

Critics might say Atkins manipulates people in the same way as the shows he criticizes. "We tricked people into being in our film," acknowledged Atkins, whose last film, Taking Liberties, looked at what he saw as the erosion of civil rights under Prime Minister Tony Blair. "Yes, we had moral qualms, but I firmly believe we're doing it for the wider point. There was subterfuge involved to serve a wider public interest."

"There was subterfuge involved to serve a wider public interest."
Chris Atkins, director

Atkins uses the same defence for his attempts to dupe newspapers in a bid to prove that Britain's tabloids won't let facts get in the way of a good story.

Checkbook journalism and stories sourced to anonymous "friends" are long-standing practices in Britain's popular press. Even murkier tabloid methods have come under scrutiny since 2007, when a News of the World journalist was jailed for illegally hacking into the phones of royal officials. The newspaper insisted it was a one-off, strongly denying that phone-tapping of celebrities was widespread.

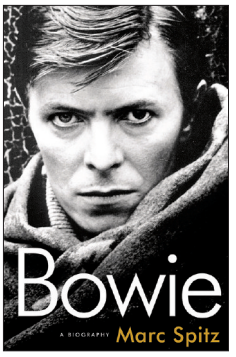
Newspapers as far afield as India printed the too-good-to-fact-check claims that a blown fuse had singed Winehouse's signature hairdo and Ritchie had given himself a black eye while juggling cutlery.

"We're trying to turn the tables — to put the boot on the other foot," said Atkins of his stings, which included covertly filming celebrity publicist Max Clifford as he talked about the famous clients who pay him to keep damaging stories about them out of the headlines.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Fan-boy' Bowie bio illuminating, irritating

BookReview



MUSIC David Bowie knows what he's singing about when he performs Changes.

After making a big splash in the early 1970s as Ziggy Stardust, he went on to become the Thin White Duke, an artsy Berlin angst rocker, the "straight" Bowie of Let's Dance and more recently the distinguished rock elder who goes to fashion events with his model wife, Iman.

The career full of characters obscures the less fantastic, but very interesting, back story of David Jones, a British teen in the '60s who desperately wanted to make it big.

He joins some R&B bands, dabbles in acting and mime, changes his last name to Bowie and records a painful-to-listen-to-now single titled The Laughing Gnome that seems to channel Alvin and the Chipmunks.

Nothing in particular sticks until he records the 1969 single Space Oddity. Bowie later goes all-in with his pioneering glam character Ziggy, the one with the screwed up eyes and snow-white tan. Bowie never looks back, never stops changing.

Spitz, a music journalist, does a decent job of tracking Bowie's evolution through copious research and interviews with dozens of people who knew him.

Spitz clearly gets Bowie, and this is an unapologetic fan-boy biography. He is good at analyzing what Bowie accomplished, why it matters and what was likely influencing him at the time. He has insightful things to say about landmark Bowie songs Life on Mars? and Heroes.

But be warned: Unlike a lot of top-rate biographers, Spitz is not big on narrative and crafting scenes. Events are recounted at length, through gushy quotes from Bowie's old chums.

And sometimes Spitz doesn't know when to turn the spigot off on himself. The book is littered with superfluous pop culture references (example: Bowie was in a band called the King Bees, and Spitz informs readers not only that it was named after the blues classic (I'm a) King Bee, but that John Belushi sang it years later on Saturday Night Live dressed like a bee).

Worse, Spitz has the self-indulgent habit of interrupting Bowie's story with vignettes about his own story of being a Bowie fan. Who cares?

The result is a book at turns interesting and irritating that reads like a very long music magazine article. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Madonna visits orphanage

CHARITY Madonna and her four children have visited the orphanage that kept one of her sons before his 2008 adoption from the impoverished southern African country.

Home of Hope Child Care Center director Lucy Chipeta says she showed Madonna and her son David his crib during yesterday's visit to the orphanage near the Zambian border.

Siblings Lourdes, Rocco and Mercy joined their mother on the tour of the orphanage, where Madonna's Raising Malawi charity has built several new buildings.

Brown publisher moves to Holt

ROLES Dan Brown's former publisher has a new job. Stephen Rubin, who resigned last month from Random House Inc., will be the president and publisher of Henry Holt and Company, where authors include Man Booker Prize winner Hilary Mantel. According to sources, Rubin will start Nov. 2.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apology in Travolta case

A Bahamas lawmaker apologized publicly Tuesday for remarks that caused a mistrial in the John Travolta extortion case, but he did not reveal who told him that a defendant had been acquitted before a verdict was announced.

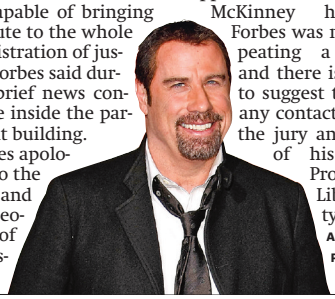
Picewell Forbes said his televised assertion that the still-deliberating jury had cleared one of the two defendants, a former Bahamas senator from his party, was "not true."

"My statements were reckless and interfered with the course of justice in that case and were further capable of bringing disrepute to the whole administration of justice," Forbes said during a brief news conference inside the parliament building.

Forbes apologized to the judge and the people of this island chain off the Florida coast. He did not take questions and his attorney, Anthony McKinney, said they cannot comment further because the matter is still before the court.

Senior Justice Anita Allen, who presided over the monthlong trial, has said she is considering a contempt of court charge against Forbes. Allen said she had no choice but to dismiss the jury because his remarks on the night of Oct. 21 gave the appearance of a leak from the jury room.

Forbes is scheduled to appear in court tomorrow. McKinney has said Forbes was merely repeating a rumour and there is nothing to suggest there was any contact between the jury and leaders of his client's Progressive Liberal Party.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clapton pulls out of Hall of Fame concert after surgery

Eric Clapton has pulled out of this week's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame concert in New York after undergoing gallstone surgery. A publicist for the guitarist said yesterday that Clapton was doing well and recuperating with his family in England. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Off to the red carpets

Star-studded ceremony marks the first leg in marathon-length award season

On Monday night, a new crop of Oscar prospects crammed the red carpet at what is widely considered Tinseltown's award-season starting gate: the Hollywood Awards.

"I think I was extremely naive when I showed up here tonight. This is a big thing," said new Hollywood Award winner Gabourey "Gabby" Sidibe with a giggle. Sidibe plays the title role of an abused daughter in Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire.

Among the other honourees walking the media gauntlet at the ceremony: Hilary Swank (Amelia), Julianne Moore (A Single Man), Carey Mulligan (An Education) and Christoph Waltz (Inglourious Basterds).

Presenters included Sandra Bullock, Ewan McGregor, Kate Beckinsale, Morgan Freeman and Juno screenwriter Diablo Cody.

"I first came to this show a couple years ago, and we won for Juno," Cody said. "I think this is kind of like the first. There's something in the air."

"It's a great festival," said Oscar winner Charlize Theron, whose performance in North Country earned her the Hollywood Actress Award at the 2005 gala. "It really does create a bit of noise."

Sidibe

Theron came to present a Hollywood Breakthrough Actor Award to her North Country co-star and friend Jeremy Renner, for his performance in The Hurt Locker. "He really shines in this film, she said.

MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Hilary Swank received a Hollywood Award for her role in Amelia.

While the awards are 13 years old, only over the last few years has the gala emerged as one of the award season's tentpoles. The festival's chairs, judges and advisers include film critics, industry executives and film festival chiefs from around the world — making for one enigmatic voting group.

For at least some of the attendees, this likely marked the first of four long months on the award-show circuit. "Four months of this?" asked British actress Carey Mulligan, sounding surprised.

Mulligan's portrayal of a young student in a relationship with an older man in An Education earned her the Hollywood Breakthrough Actress Award, and has some Oscar pundits saying she'll also be at the Kodak Theatre in March for the Academy Awards.

"Oh, I just met Hilary Swank. I'm in a little bit of a daze," Mulligan continued. "This is exciting. The photo bit is a little scary. The lights flash a lot and they made my eyes water, which is terrifying. But it's amazing."

Four-time Oscar nominee Julianne Moore, honoured with the Hollywood Supporting Actress Award for a blast of films including designer-turned-director Tom Ford's A Single Man, said balancing life, work and award shows does present its challenges.

"Obviously, it's all a lot easier if you do live in Los Angeles," explained Moore, who lives in New York.

"And the flying. I was just at the London Film Festival, so I came from the London Film Festival, right to here. So, that's kind of exhausting. And I am anxious to get home to my kids."

"I have to say it's something very surreal," noted Swank, the two-time Oscar winner who won the Hollywood Actress Award for her work in Amelia.

"But to have your work recognized? At the end of it all is something that continues to leave me speechless."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Award Winners

- **Actor:** Robert De Niro (Everybody's Fine)
- **Actress:** Hilary Swank (Amelia)
- **Supporting Actor:** Christoph Waltz (Inglourious Basterds)
- **Supporting Actress:** Julianne Moore (A Single Man)
- **Director:** Kathryn Bigelow (The Hurt Locker)
- **Screenplay:** Nora Ephron (Julie & Julia)
- **Breakthrough Actress:** Carey Mulligan (An Education)
- **Breakthrough Actor:** Jeremy Renner (The Hurt Locker)
- **Breakthrough Director:** Lee Daniels (Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire)
- **Comedy Award:** Bradley Cooper (The Hangover)

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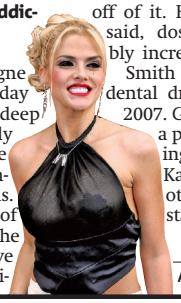
Toronto artist wins $25K prize
Toronto artist Shary Boyle, who has projected her drawings onstage at concerts for musicians including Feist and Peaches, has won this year's $25,000 Gershon Iskowitz Prize. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Smith prescribed 'hospital heroin'

A pain management expert testifies that Anna Nicole Smith's doctor prescribed multiple opiates to her, including an addictive drug he called "hospital heroin."

Dr. James Gagne testified yesterday that Dr. Sandeep Kapoor excessively gave drugs to the former model without a medical basis. In Gagne's review of Kapoor's records, he found Kapoor gave Smith the drug Dilaudid for several months in 2004 after she broke her ribs. Kapoor later wrote that he was weaning her off of it. However, Gagne said, dosages inexplicably increased afterward.

Smith died of an accidental drug overdose in 2007. Gagne testified at a preliminary hearing to determine if Kapoor and two others should stand trial. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


Anna Nicole Smith

Campbell accused of withholding profits from perfume deal

FRAGRANCE A cosmetics-marketing company claims in a New York lawsuit that Naomi Campbell didn't hand over its cut of the proceeds from a fragrance-licensing deal.

The lawsuit says the supermodel violated a 1998 contract by leaving Moodform Mission out of a deal made within roughly the past year. It says she stopped paying Moodform Mission its share of proceeds from scents it helped develop. Those include Naomi Campbell, Cat Deluxe and Seductive Elixir. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Molly Johnson and Coco Love Alcorn are among the performers at the Toronto Cyclists Union's Cocktail & Masquerade Fundraiser from 6 p.m to 1 a.m. $25-$100. bikeunion.to

Talk
Where: North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge St.
Canadian author Colin Mcadam will discuss his work and answer questions at 7 p.m. Free.

Music
Where: Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St. W.
Roky Erickson and The Sadies perform tonight. Doors open at 8 p.m.: $29.50. leespalace.com

Halloween
Where: Exhibition Park
Screemers, Canada's premier scream park, takes place tonight from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Exhibition Park. screemers.ca

Ghosts
Where: Casa Loma
Ghost trackers Michelle Desrochers and Patrick Cross talk about haunted occurrences at Casa Loma. Through Thursday. $15 and $25. casaloma.org

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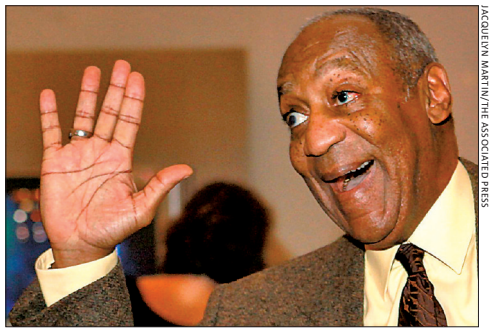
Quipping for Cosby

Bill Cosby watched as the stars lined up Monday night to pay tribute to his brand of comedy that broke down racial barriers and stereotypes and quipped that usually when a man sees his life flash before his eyes, it's for a bad reason.



JACQUELYN MARTIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Comedian and actor Bill Cosby waves to the cameras as he enters the Kennedy Center to receive the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor in Washington, on Monday night.

"But this is all right," the 72-year-old comedian and actor said after Chris Rock and Jerry Seinfeld saluted their fellow funny man with the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, along with two co-stars from The Cosby Show, Phylicia Rashad and Malcolm-Jamal Warner.

First lady Michelle Obama and Jill Biden, the vice-president's wife, were among those in Washington watching clips from Cosby's long career — from his classic standup routine of a visit to the dentist to dealing with the stresses of raising a large family as a TV dad.

Seinfeld and Rock shared the stage and said they followed Cosby's comedy albums as children, which inspired their own careers. Then they got lost in banter about how they could never measure up.

"I'm definitely not that funny," Seinfeld said.

"And now, we're up here in front of him," Rock said.

"I don't feel funny," Seinfeld quipped.

"Me neither," Rock said.

By then, they had no choice but to toss to a clip of Cosby's dentist routine.

"The first thing he grabs is an iron hook," Cosby begins. "Then he starts to drill and you see and smell smoke coming out of your mouth!"

Critics always point out that The Cosby Show, which aired in the 1980s, broke new ground because it was about a successful black family with a father who's a doctor and mother, a lawyer, coping with raising five children.

Of all his accomplishments as a comedian, actor, author and television producer, Cosby said he is most proud of the show, which he carefully crafted.

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Tour tragedy
Bruce Springsteen cancelled a performance in Kansas City, Mo., after his cousin — who worked as an assistant road manager — was found dead in his hotel room Monday evening. USMAGAZINE.COM

Flockhart's new challenge

Actor's role weightier in new season of Brothers & Sisters

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Aside from the odd film role, Calista Flockhart stepped out of the limelight after wrapping up Ally McBeal in 2002 to focus on raising her son, Liam.

Then, three years ago, Liam started elementary school and Flockhart went back to work, joining the cast of another network drama, Brothers and Sisters.

She's been happily part of the ensemble, but now Flockhart finds herself front and centre once again as the new season of the ABC series focuses on her character Kitty's battle with cancer.

The hardest part of the job? "It's itchy," she says, motioning to the wig on her head. "Have you ever worn a wig for a long period of time? I'm going to need Tylenol by the end of the week."

Not that she takes lightly the duty of depicting such serious subject matter. "As an actress, it's interesting to explore going through that, but it is a bit intimidating and challenging," Flockhart admits.

"I've had days where I cry a lot and it's absolutely challenging. I've done a lot of research and my life has sort of been all about cancer the last couple of months… It's a frightening place to be."

Despite that, Flockhart says she never lets work follow her home. "Work for me is work, and the minute I'm finished with my work, it's gone," she says.

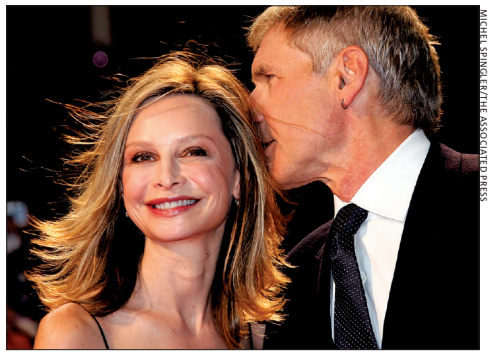
"I go home and I'm just me and living my life." Of course, that must be pretty easy when you're going home to an adorable third-grader and Harrison Ford.

Depending on the fate of her character, Flockhart says she could get comfortable in the Walker clan. "Who knows what the future will bring," she says. "When this show is over … we'll see where my life goes. But I'm not planning on taking another break or doing anything like that."

And while she's enjoying the steady life of a TV actress once again, Flockhart's theatre roots are never far from her thoughts.

"There are a lot of reasons why I decided to take another television show as opposed to doing film or theatre," she says.

"When it's the right time for my family, I think I'll probably end up back in New York doing some plays."


MICHEL SPINGLER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Calista Flockhart, seen in September with partner Harrison Ford, returned from a career hiatus to play Kitty on ABC's Brothers and Sisters. This season focuses on her character's battle with cancer.

"When this show is over … we'll see where my life goes. But I'm not planning on taking another break."
Calista Flockhart

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TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 10/28/09	265	353	2 TVO	Tiger Island	Tiger Island (N)	The Agenda With Steve Paikin		The Relief of Belsen		Human Edge (N)		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Bones		*X-Men: The Last Stand* ★★ (2006, Action), Ian McKellen				News Final (N)
	215	343	4 OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6 CBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dragon's Den (HDTV) (N)		The Tudors (N) (DVS)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Mercy		Modern Family	Cougar Town	The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	212	313	8 CTV	etalk	Hollywood	America's Next Top Model (N)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: NY "The Triangle"		CTV News
	218	345	11 CHCH	*The Neverending Story* ★★★ (1984, Fantasy) Barret Oliver.				*Carrie* ★★★ (1976, Horror) Sissy Spacek, Piper Laurie.				News at 11 (N)
	137	763	13 TFO	Panorama		L'histoire de Yasser Arafat		*Le Silence de la forêt* ★★★ (2003, Drame)			Villages	Passions
	-	-	14 -	Family Guy	The Office	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Over the Bolts
	213	326	15 SUN	The Insider (N)	George Lopez	*Halloween II* ★★ (1981, Horror) Jamie Lee Curtis.				The Insider	Hitchcock Pres	Becker
	-	387	16 CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: NY "The Triangle"		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17 NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Monsters vs.	Monsters vs.	Law & Order: SVU		The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	-	386	18 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Charlie Brown	The Middle (N)	Modern Family	Cougar Town	(10:01) Eastwick (N)		News
	219	346	20 ACH-B	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)	*Bewitched* ★★ (2005, Romance-Comedy) Nicole Kidman.				(10:01) Eastwick (N)		A News
	-	-	28 FOX	Judge Judy (N)	MLB Baseball World Series, Game 1 -- Philadelphia Phillies at New York Yankees.						Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61 PBS	News-Lehrer	Wait for God	Long Live Grandma Hippo		The Botany of Desire (HDTV) (N)				Business Rpt.
	297	652	330 WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model (N)		The Vampire Diaries		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331 SBK	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: SVU		WBZ News (N)	What's-Store	The Office	Name Is Earl	Frasier
	298	653	332 TLA	The Tyra Show (N)		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Next Model
news	502	390	26 NW	Connect Today's biggest stories. (N)				CBC News: The National		Planet Earth "Caves"		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79 CNB	Kudlow Report		Biography on CNBC		American Greed		American Greed		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22 net	MLB Preview	MLB Baseball World Series, Game 1 -- Philadelphia Phillies at New York Yankees. From Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, N.Y.							
	400	400	30 TSN	That's Hockey!	NHL Pregame	NHL Hockey Toronto Maple Leafs at Dallas Stars. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre (HDTV)	
	411	457	58 OLN	Ghost Hunters		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Survivorman		Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter
	417	406	81 SC	Pass Time	NASCAR Hub	Amer. Thunder	Pinks Outtakes	Pass Time	Pass Time	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride
family	551	542	25 YTV	OddParents	That's-Weird	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline Proj
	554	544	45 TEL	*Scooby Doo*	*Scooby-Doo! and the Samurai Sword*			Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Robot Chicken
	556	540	51 FAM	Sonny Chance	Zack & Cody	Overruled! (N)	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
cable variety	602	567	27 W	Old Christine	Friends	Friends	Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	Yourself Sexy	Chef Worthy	Fearl-Kitchen	Supersize-Skin
	570	580	29 MM	One Tree Hill		My Date With...	Video on Trial	America's Best Dance Crew		Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	One Tree Hill
	615	520	31 A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Paranormal
	700	800	35 TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Professione Fantasma (Italian).		Professione Fantasma (Italian).		George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez
	571	581	36 MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Wild 'n Out	Wild 'n Out	Gene Simmons	Gene Simmons	The Daily Fix
	575	583	38 CMT	Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Due South
	616	521	39 SHO	The Outer Limits		The Guard (HDTV)		Found.	Paradise Falls	Bones (HDTV)		NCIS
	620	523	40 BVO	The Achievers	Bravo!Videos	Arts & Minds	O'Reagan File	Wingfield	Star Portraits	The Musical Brain		Law & Order
	601	562	41 SLC	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Carlawood	Nearly Dead	Newlywed	Newlywed	In Laws	In Laws	ET Canada
	522	506	43 HIS	Captain Bligh Conspiracy		Life After People		Ice Road Truckers		Captain Bligh Conspiracy		Outlaw Bikers
	625	548	44 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Michael	RENO 911! (N)	Daily Show
	600	564	46 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Realtor	Intervention	Property Virgin	Unsellable	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47 TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	Law & Order: SVU		The Office	The Office	*Land of the Dead* ★★ (2005, Horror)		
	576	582	49 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Bait* ★ (2000, Action) Jamie Foxx, Doug Hutchison.				First In	First In	Mo'Nique
	627	528	50 SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Torchwood		Supernatural		InnerSpace (N)
	581	566	52 MTV	The Hills	After	Disaster Date	Peak Season	The Hills	The City	The City	After	MTV Live
	618	524	54 TROP	King	King	The Outer Limits		ET Canada	What Happen?	Family Guy	King	King
	603	561	56 FOOD	Ricardo	Fresh-Anna	Challenge (N)		Iron Chef America		Chopped (N)		Chef School
	261	394	60 V	Murder, She Wrote		Keeping Up	Foot in Grave	Jeeves and Wooster		Unscripted (N)	Driven-Vision	Poltergeist
	621	527	63 STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	553	546	65 TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Babar	Big & Small	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101 TVA	Poule-oeufs or	Occupation	Destinées (HDTV) (N) (SC)		Dr. House (HDTV) (SC)		TVA nouvelles	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102 RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Artisans du changement		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI économie	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249 VIVA	Judging Amy		Missing Jess goes undercover.		The Closer		Da Vinci's Inquest		Mediums
	300	601	301 M1	(7:15) *Shred* (2008, Comedy) Tom Green.				*The Incredible Hulk* ★★★ (2008, Action) Edward Norton.				*Twilight*
	305	612	306 PIX	(7:15) *Blackout* ★★ (1978, Crime Drama)				*Prom Night III: The Last Kiss* ★★ (1989)				*Prom Night IV: Deliver Us*

critics'corner

The Tudors
Henry (Jonathan Rhys Meyers) goes into seclusion after Jane's death, with only his court jester (David Bradley) for company. He emerges with a new set of rules for the church, which bear a striking resemblance to Catholicism. Pole (Mark Hildreth) seeks protection from Bryan (Alan Van Sprang) with Cardinal Von Waldburg (Max Von Sydow). Brandon (Henry Cavill), still reeling from the Pilgrimage of Grace massacre, blames Cromwell (James Frain). 9 PM on CBC

Human Edge
Ben Rogers, a young British heroin addict, began filming his life in 2005. What he wound up filming was the end of his life, as he died two years later at the age of 34. The poignant documentary "Ben: Diary of a Heroin Addict" is made up of the footage he shot of his family life, his drug use and his efforts to get clean, along with commentary from family members and friends struggling to understand. 10 PM on TVO

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Call of the wild
After years of successful hip-shaking, Colombian superstar Shakira thinks it's time to put them to another use. "My body feels like it is asking to reproduce, to have a huge belly and carry babies," she tells Rolling Stone magazine. METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity Buzz

Renee nervous for Bradley's parents

WEDDING BELLS Reports that fledgling couple Renee Zellweger and Bradley Cooper are on the outs may have been premature, sources tell Gatecrasher. In fact, Cooper is even planning on bringing his new squeeze home to Philadelphia meet the family for the holidays.

"Things have been heading in this direction for the two of them for a while," a source says, "but this definitely solidifies how serious they are. Renee says she's nervous, and she's really hoping it goes well. She's very excited."

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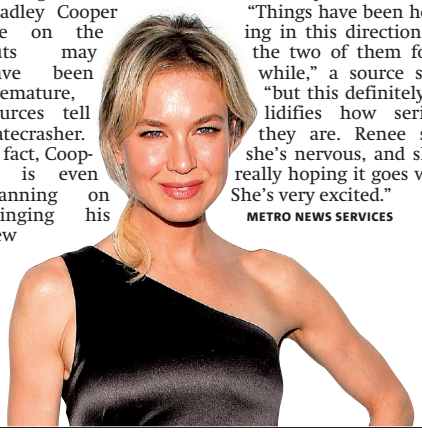


Levi ready for nude 'art'

NUDIST AT HEART Get ready for more — a lot more — of Levi Johnston, usmagazine.com reports

The hockey-playing dad to Sarah Palin's grandson, Johnston, 19, is ready for his Playgirl close-up. And while a date has yet to be set for his nude photo shoot, his manager Tank Jones told usmagazine.com, "it will be early November" in New York.

And Playgirl readers shouldn't expect many artfully placed pillows in the photos. Jones confirms to Us that full-frontal shots are planned for the shoot — and that Bristol Palin's ex isn't nervous about exposing himself.

"He's pumped! He's ready to shock the world. The hell with fifteen minutes," Jones told Us over the phone. "As a matter of fact, when I picked him up, he came out the house naked. I said, 'Not now!'"

Johnston himself took the phone for a moment to chime in, telling Us: "I just get naked. That's what I do."

Like the up-in-the-air date, the theme of the shoot itself is also to-be-determined, Jones explained. "We're going to play it by ear. I'm going to make sure it's something he's comfortable with and tasteful. This is art."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity tweets

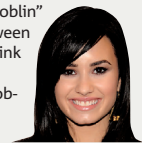
John Cleese won't let exercise keep him from being comfortable, Demi Lovato doesn't mind bragging about being flu-free, Pink knows what she wants, and Jon Favreau is becoming fluent in toddler-speak.

• @JohnCleese
Have decided to wear carpet slippers all day, even for my workout...

• @ddlovato
I think I'm the only one staying healthy during this season! Well done multivitamins! ;)

• @Pink
every town should have a 24 hour pizza joint. that would make everything better. zabra cadabra.

• @Jon_Favreau
My three year old daughter wants to be a "scoopy goblin" for Halloween which I think means a spooky goblin.



Fans protest Jacko documentary

THIS IS NOT IT? Diehard fans of Michael Jackson are up in arms about "This Is It," the documentary of his final rehearsals opening today. The fans behind the group, "This Is Not It," are protesting the film, claiming it isn't a fair depiction of Jackson's final days.

"The promoters for This Is It ignored the signs, ignored the pleas, and in fact, actively covered up the truth," a statement on the group's website reads. "What you will see on that screen is part of that cover up. Out of 110 hours of footage, a few scenes were selected in which Michael Jackson smiled, in spite of being in a dire state."

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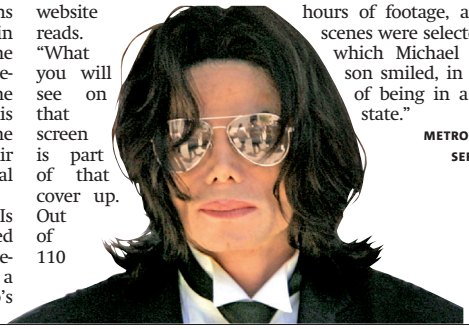

Teen stars get hot at hotel

TWO TAYLORS Things appear to be heating up between teen sensations Taylor Lautner and Taylor Swift. The pair arrived Sunday night at the Beverly Wilshire hotel — and they didn't seem to care who noticed, according to X17 Online. "These two weren't going to any great length to hide the fact that they were spending the night together," a source says.

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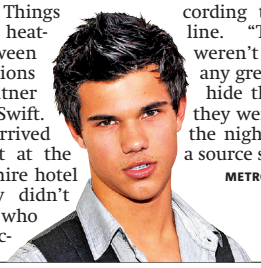
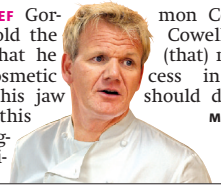


Ramsay goes under the knife

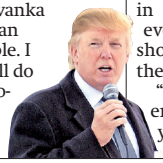
A CHANGED CHEF Gordon Ramsay told the Radio Times that he underwent a cosmetic procedure on his jaw area earlier this year at the urging of one Simon Cowell. "Simon Cowell suggested (that) now I'm a success in America, I should do something."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Trump bets on great marriage

DADDY APPROVES Donald Trump couldn't be happier with his daughter Ivanka Trump's recent marriage to New York Observer owner Jared Kushner. Donald tells Us Weekly: "Ivanka and Jared are an amazing couple. I know they will do great things together."METRO WORLD NEWS



There's no biz like showbiz

LOVING THE LIMELIGHT Despite all the troubles being a reality-show star has brought her, Kate Gosselin also said she wants to stay in the limelight even after her show goes off the air.

"I've done enough years on TV that I feel like it's a normal, comfortable, natural place to be," she said. "I'd love to be in a movie at some point, I'd love to be the voice of a cartoon character in a movie for my kids. I think that would be fun."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Scarlett on Broadway as a girl

TEEN ROLE Scarlett Johansson is set to make her Broadway debut as a 17-year-old girl, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The 24-year-old actress will appear alongside Liev Schreiber in an adaptation of Arthur Miller's A View from the Bridge.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Newlyweds get love tattoos

INKED DINKS Nothing says forever like a tattoo — with the initials of your beloved, usmagazine.com reports. Khloe Kardashian blogged on Monday, "Lamar and I were eating at Sunset Plaza and I just said, 'Let's go to Tattoo Mania! I want a tattoo!'" And so they did. At L.A.'s Tattoo Mania, artist Dirk Vanderlinden applied "L.O." on Kardashian's right hand, and "K.O." on both of Lamar Odom's hands.

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Thursday Partly sunny 12° / 10°
Friday Showers 40% 15° / 7°

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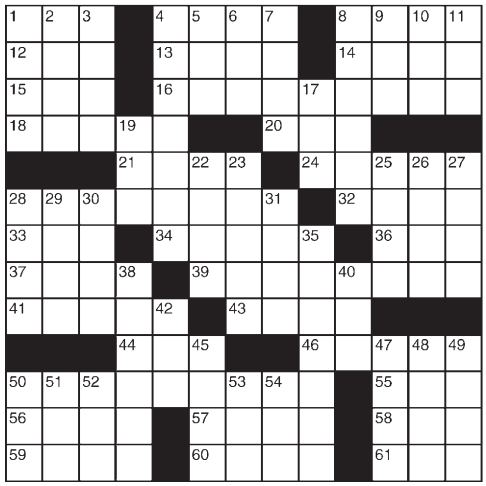
Take Five

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**



ACROSS

1 Resistance unit
4 Low range
8 Terrible guy?
12 Pair with an air
13 Met melody
14 Mature
15 Freddy's street
16 Sample of signage
18 Impudent
20 Heavy weight
21 Greek peak
24 London newspaper
28 Montana city
32 Bear lair
33 Yoko —
34 Frat party garb
36 Feminine principle
37 Garbage barge
39 Wallet
41 Red River capital
43 — out (supplemented)
44 Eggs
46 Leaves at the library?
50 Kid's pop
55 "The 7 Faces of Dr. —"
56 Garfield's pal
57 Hindu princess
58 Doctrine
59 Enter
60 Related
61 Spell-down

DOWN

1 Poetic tributes
2 Luau entertainment
3 Mid-May honorees
4 Watch Junior
5 "Entourage" character
6 Part of RSVP
7 Sodium chloride
8 Kinda funny
9 By way of
10 Spring mo.
11 Homer's neighbour
17 Automaton, for short
19 Scale member
22 Uppity one
23 One majoring in farming
25 BLT enhancer
26 Satan's specialty
27 Transmit
28 "Poppycock!"
29 Bygone Peruvian
30 Crazy sort
31 Polio vaccine discoverer
35 Ignored the alarm
38 Fleecy
40 HHS division
42 Wall climber
45 Taj Mahal city
47 Smooth-talking
48 Facility
49 A few
50 Cranberry territory
51 Altar affirmative
52 Roman 52
53 Acorn creator
54 Blackbird

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		9	1		8	6		
	5		3		4		9	
7								3
		6	8	5	1	2		
		5	6	9	3	1		
1								7
	3		4		9		6	
		4	2		7	5		

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

2	8	6	5	3	7	9	1	4
1	9	4	6	8	2	5	3	7
3	7	5	1	4	9	6	2	8
4	6	1	7	5	8	3	9	2
9	3	8	2	1	4	7	5	6
7	5	2	3	9	6	8	4	1
6	2	9	4	7	3	1	8	5
5	4	3	8	6	1	2	7	9
8	1	7	9	2	5	4	6	3

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Swiss Meringue Shells

INGREDIENTS:
3 egg whites
1/2 tsp (2 ml) vanilla extract
1/4 tsp (1 ml) cream of tartar
3/4 cup (175 mL) sugar
Berries of your choice
Whipped cream or vanilla ice cream, optional

METHOD:
1. Place egg whites in small mixing bowl; let stand at room temperature 30 minutes. Add vanilla and cream of tartar to egg whites; beat on medium speed until soft peaks form.
2. Gradually beat in sugar, 1 tbsp (15 ml) at a time, on high until stiff glossy peaks form and sugar is dissolved.
3. Drop eight mounds onto parchment-lined baking sheet. Shape into 3-in. (7.5 cm) cups with back of spoon. Bake at 225°F (107°C) 1 to 1 1/2 hours or until set and dry. Turn oven off; leave meringues in oven 1 hour.
4. Cool on wire racks. Store in an airtight container. Fill shells with berries and whipped cream or ice cream if desired.

SERVES 8

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Mercury crosses the wealth axis of your chart today, so you'll be looking for money-making opportunities. Stick with what you know.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Someone who usually keeps their opinions a closely guarded secret will speak their mind today and will no doubt shock you.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
With Mercury joining the Sun in the work area of your chart today you will find it easier to organize your everyday routine.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Your prospects are getting better with each passing day and they will get better still over the next 24 hours.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
It may annoy you that someone is saying things about you that are clearly untrue but don't make an issue of it.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
As from today you will find it easier to express yourself, both in your personal life and on the work front. But some things are best kept to yourself.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Something you hear today may sound too good to be true but don't reject it for that reason alone.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Even if you are the sort of Scorpio who never gives much away, you will be more inclined than usual to open up about your feelings.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
This is never the easiest time of year for Sagittarians but there are plenty of reasons to believe that you can make positive changes in your life.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Attitude is everything and if you surround yourself with people whose outlook is positive today your own view of the world will be positive too.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Keep telling yourself that no matter how many obstacles fate puts in your path, it is your destiny to prevail over each and every one of them.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
If you have something to say, something you feel the world needs to know, say it now while the planets make it easy for you.

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